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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Bishop reaffirms CW bill commitment'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was on the telephone with U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) yesterday morning, during which the congressman reportedly affirmed that he is committed to passing legislation that increases the number of slots in the CNMI's foreign worker program and extends its sunset clause.

Torres

Torres, who said he talked with Bishop at 7am yesterday, described the conversation as "excellent."

The two reportedly discussed getting legislation through the U.S. Congress on the extension of the CW-1

See BISHOP on Page 4

Flight from Japan hoped in Oct.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres hopes to see the first direct flight from Tokyo to Saipan this October, even as a new promotion to endorse the incoming airline is underway.

According to Torres, as a result of the recently signed memorandum of agreement between Skymark Airlines and the CNMI administration, a direct flight from Tokyo is expected to arrive in October.

"Unfortunately, we don't have one in place between now and then," he said.

Despite that, Torres said it is still

See FLIGHT on Page 4

CONSULAR OUTREACH
Filipino nationals in the CNMI renew their passports and had important documents processed during the Philippine Consulate General's consular outreach yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

See story on Page 4.

'Extending leases will encourage re-investment'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority supports legislation that would extend public land leases to 55 years in order to encourage hotels to improve their facilities.

A bill that is currently in the House of Representatives would set the initial lease agreement at a maximum of 40 years, with an option of extending it for another 15 years. Senate Bill 20-35 was introduced by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

The current land lease law only allows an initial lease of 25 years and an option for another 15 for a maximum of 40 years. S.B. 20-35 aims to increase that to a total of 55 years,

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the agency's board hasn't discussed the expiring leases for hotels on public lands "but we

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INSIDE

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U.S.-Micronesian partnership were on display this week at Yap Robo Day.
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Ex-Malaysian PM Najib Razak is grilled for more than four hours over a corruption scandal
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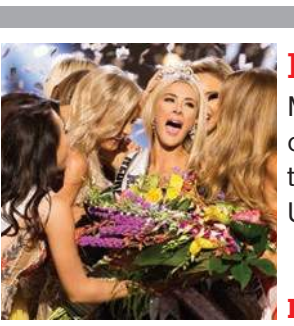
LIFE & STYLE
Miss Nebraska beats out 50 other women to win this year's Miss USA competition.
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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2018 Pacific Century Fellows pose with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion at the MVA office in San Jose.

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PCF tackles tourism issues

Members of the 2018 Pacific Century Fellows learned about the CNMI's No. 1 industry during aits May session last May 9.

Ivan Quichocho, TanHoldings vice president for Business Development, gave the fellows a brief history of how the Commonwealth tourism industry got started in the 1980s, its upswing in the early 1990s, and its decline after the Japanese economy's bubble burst in the late 1990s.

Fast-forward to the tourism industry's revival at the start of the new decade, that was when the CNMI government diversified the market to guarantee that the islands' tourism industry won't suddenly tank if one source market's economy goes south.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion talked about the islands' tourism body and how the CNMI turned its tourism industry around by not relying only on the Japanese market, but also keying on the Korean and Chinese tourism markets as well.

He told the fellows that the perfect balance is 30 percent Korean, 30 percent Chinese, and 30 percent Japanese tourists making up the CNMI tourism market pie chart, with the remaining 10 percent made up of visitors from Guam, the U.S. mainland, Taiwan, Russia, the Philippines, and other countries.

Concepcion emphasized that MVA is not giving up on the Japan market despite its low numbers the past couple of years.

The fellows then visited Sea Touch Saipan LLC to commune with the docile rays they have in the habitat. Lunch was at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café and was succeeded by a tour of the Imperial Pacific Resort casino.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC general counsels Philip Tydingco and Viola Alepuyo answered the fellows' questions before leading them in a tour of the casino's cavernous gaming floor.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, who is also an MVA board member, gave a presentation on the importance of "managed growth" in the tourism industry.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero reaffirmed his office's mandate to regulate Imperial Pacific during his talk with the fellows.

He said the casino industry was borne out of the crash of the NMI Retirement Fund and at the time the administration of the late governor Eloy S. Inos had nowhere to turn to but welcome the gaming industry to save the public pension fund.

CNMI culture in tourism was then discussed with a panel of speakers led by Carolinian cultural preservationist Lino Olopai, Chamorro historian Genevieve Cabrera, Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc. founding member John Oliver Gonzales, and Simiyan Manaina-Ta Inc. founder and creative director Luis John "L.J." Castro.

Olopai said the absence of Carolinian culture in hotels and other tourist spots is alarming, but attributed it to the culture's inherent shyness. He added that Carolinian culture is an oral culture, which explains the lack of writings and text about the indigenous people.

Cabrera said the Chamorro culture has been documented as the oldest culture in Micronesia. Sadly, she said, the Spanish did such a good job of "eradicating" the native culture that only snippets of how the islands' ancestors live during pre-colonial times exists.

This sparse information on ancient Chamorro culture has made it hard for cultural groups to present their native culture in the form of dances and chants in hotels and other tourist spots, according to Castro.

Gonzales said the people of the CNMI should continue to champion their culture by teaching their children the olden ways. He said this could be achieved by communing with the Lino Olopais and Genevieve Cabreras of the islands. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Man pleads guilty to burglarizing lawyer's home

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A habitual offender pleaded guilty yesterday for burglarizing the home of lawyer Joseph Taijeron and his wife in Garapan. Benjamin Bok Lee, 28, will be sentenced on July 3 at 9am.

Under the plea deal, Lee will be sentenced to prison between three years and 10 years, pay a possible fine of up to $10,000, and pay restitution to the victims.

Lee broke into the house of Taijeron and his wife, Jamika, in Garapan and stole items on Aug. 2, 2017.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. prosecuted the case. Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski is counsel for Lee. Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja is presiding.

According to a police report, Jamika Taijeron had just left her purse on a table in their home's dining area when she later discovered it was gone and the front sliding door was open. Taijeron immediately called her husband.

She then checked the surveillance camera of a neighbor that captured the suspect's car and she posted the car's photo on her Facebook account. That led to Lee's identification and arrest on Aug. 21, 2017.

Joseph Taijeron, a lawyer with the House of Representatives, told police that a day or two prior to the burglary, Lee approached him at his house and told him he lived in that same house a while back. Lee then left.

Police said that, soon after his arrest, Lee confessed to the crime and disclosed that he sold some of the stolen items and played poker.

In August 2017, Lee, who is also a self-confessed drug addict, was slapped with a three-year prison term for robbing a student who had just gotten out of school at Mt. Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa and was injured after he was dragged by the defendant's car by 50 feet.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said after completing the three-year prison term, Lee would be placed on supervised probation for four years and that he may apply for parole.

A day before the sentencing in the Chalan Kanoa robbery case, Lee was arrested in As Lito in connection with the burglary at the Taijeron's home.

On Aug. 1, 2017, Lee allegedly shattered the window of a vehicle where his wife was with their child and her friend at the entrance of Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville. He also allegedly repeatedly punched his wife's male friend.

At a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found no probable cause to charge Lee and dismissed without prejudice the charges. Dismissal without prejudice means the government may re-file the charges in the future.

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Consular outreach caters to over 400 Filipinos

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam returned to Saipan for a consular outreach from May 21 to May 23 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with the aim of providing services to over 400 CNMI-residing Filipinos with passport related needs.

According to Philippine Consul Mark Hamoy, prior to their arrival in the CNMI, Filipinos interested in renewing their passports were required to register first at the office of the honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI, Eli Arago. A total of 420 signed up for passport renewals on Saipan alone.

Hamoy said that because of the minimal amount of no-shows, the outreach was able to take on over 200 cases in the past two days in terms of passport renewals.

Today is the last day for Filipinos to avail of all consular services such as passport renewals, passport pick-up, civil registration, reports of birth, reports of death, reports of marriage, etc.

Hamoy also wants to emphasize that Filipino citizens interested in voting in the next Philippine election should register as soon as possible.

"I would like to remind our nationals here who still haven't registered to register during this time because this is the second to the last consular outreach before the overseas registration period ends on Sept. 30, 2018," he said.

The consular outreach is currently being held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 4pm. Excluding passport renewals, all other consular services are available without prior registration.

Hamoy said the community should expect three more consular missions for the rest of the year. Hamoy is urging Filipino nationals to register first with Arago's office in terms of passport renewals before the next outreach.

IT&E installs free internet at youth centers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

IT&E has installed free high-speed fiber-optic WiFi services in youth centers in the CNMI.

During the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E marketing manager Natasha Tomokane told *Saipan Tribune* that they had just completed hooking up all five youth centers with free internet service.

"They have had internet for a long time but, as part of our effort to give back to the community, we've shouldered the cost of that instead of having the centers pay for it," she said.

According to Tomokane, IT&E prides itself in its efforts to help keep students off of the streets and in youth centers.

"We are very proud of that. Summer is coming up, kids are coming out of the schools, and that's where they spend most of their time and we see the instant benefits to that because they [students] are encouraged to stay away from crimes," she said.

Tomokane said that IT&E is a firm believer in the importance of education so they wanted their efforts of giving back to reflect that belief.

"We're advocates for education…and we want to make sure that our efforts echo that statement," she said.

According to Youth Affairs Office special assistant Shelane Borja, IT&E hooked up high speed internet to the Koblerville youth center, the San Antonio Youth Center, and the Chalan Kanoa youth center.

House defers action on lease term extension

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives chose yesterday to defer action on a Senate bill that effectively extends the maximum lease term extension from 40 years to 55 years.

In their session on Tinian, the House opted to defer action on Senate President Arnold Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35, a bill that amends the maximum initial lease term from 25 to 40 years.

"We didn't act on the bill. It was a decision made by the leadership to go ahead and adopt the committee report; however, we would entertain the legislation...[on] Saipan so that we can allow more people to participate and provide comments on that issue," said House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Demapan explained that the leadership in their pre-session meeting agreed to collectively adopt the House Natural Resources Committee report recommending S.B. 20-35's passage. The committee is led by Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan).

The committee last Friday voted to adopt S.B. 20-35 with a vote of 4-3 for its passage while a previous committee meeting's vote resulted in a deadlock.

Demapan indicated that he has yet to look at the schedule for the next House session, which would most likely include action on S.B. 20-35.

BISHOP

From Page 1

program beyond 2019 as well as the addition of slots for the program, which is currently set at 4,999 slots for fiscal year 2019. The program provides a temporary solution to the lack of manpower in the CNMI by allowing foreign nationals to lawfully work on an annual basis through the issuance of CW-1 permits, which are unique only to the NMI.

"My call with Chairman Bishop was excellent and is a reaffirmation of his commitment to work closely with me on passing the legislation in the House within a reasonable and expeditious timeframe. We have plans put in place, so I'll be providing updates as we move forward," said Torres in a statement.

Torres also expressed his willingness to assist Congress "in any way."

"I do wish to respectfully ask for your consideration of the urgency of this legislation," said Torres in his letter to Bishop dated May 22, 2018. "As I have mentioned in previous communications and on our recent call, our islands' sole hospital is in dire need of a solution to our labor issues in order to maintain critical healthcare services to our people."

Torres highlighted the fact that the lack of workers would not only affect the healthcare services in the CNMI, but also the economy as businesses experience difficulties as they "anticipate a dramatic reduction in available manpower come Oct. 1, 2018."

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced in late November 2017 that they would be cutting the number of CW-1 slots in anticipation of its slated sunset on Dec. 31, 2019. USCIS set the CW cap for fiscal year 2018 at 9,998 and 4,999 for fiscal year 2019, while also utilizing a lottery system for the selection process for fiscal year 2019.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) previously introduced legislation that addressed the end of the CW-1 program as well as the slot limitation for fiscal year 2019.

S. 2325, or the U.S. Workforce Act, received unanimous support from the U.S. Senate; however, one of its amendments, which included an anti-fraud fee to be paid by employers, was considered a revenue-generating provision by the U.S. House Parliamentarian. Only the House may introduce legislation that generates revenue, said the House Parliamentarian, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a previous statement.

Together with Murkowski's introduction of S. 2325 in the U.S. Senate, Sablan had introduced H.R. 4869 in the U.S. House of Representatives, an exact copy of S. 2325 in its original form, prior to the U.S. Senate amendments.

In the same statement, Sablan said the new version of the CW program extension championed by Bishop would include the anti-fraud fee.

FLIGHT

From Page 1

a great deal for the CNMI that there is an interested airline willing to operate flights between Saipan and Japan, even though it will arrive late in the year.

"The fact that we have a dedicated airline to service Saipan and Japan, we're really happy to have that interest and commitment from Skymark" he said.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, MVA is also working on their plans to produce a tailored marketing strategy to promote Skymark's flights from Tokyo to Saipan.

"Our marketing efforts will continue regardless and when ready we will launch specific marketing initiatives in the Kanto region to boost Skymark's profile for the travelling public," he said in a written response to *Saipan Tribune* queries.

The MVA expects to see a significant increase in Japanese arrivals as a result of the partnership with Skymark.

"…It'll be the re-instatement of a direct flight service from Japan to the CNMI. The MOU signed between Skymark president Ichie San and our governor is significant in that it sets the framework for our agreement with Skymark to begin direct flights to the CNMI. We are excited about the future of the Japan market and our partnership with Skymark in particular," he said.

The administration is promising not to sit on its laurels. Torres said his administration is still working toward getting more Japanese airlines from other prefectures to invest in the CNMI.

"This doesn't stop us from reaching out and negotiating with other airlines for other destinations [within Japan]. I want to make it clear that Skymark is for Haneda and Tokyo so…we're [working] to get another airline from Nagoya... Osaka…for all those other destinations to be able to come to Saipan," he said.

On Friday, May 18, 2018, Torres and Skymark Airlines agreed to launch direct flights between the CNMI and Japan in the upcoming winter schedule.

Skymark Airlines is Japan's third largest carrier headquartered at Haneda Airport in Tokyo and will be the first Japan-based carrier in the CNMI since 2005, when Japan Airlines closed its Saipan office.

The agreement between Skymark and Saipan marks a monumental breakthrough for the Japan tourism market. Haneda is Tokyo's premier airport, located minutes from downtown Tokyo, making it easier for Tokyo's immense population of 37 million people to have the opportunity to travel to the CNMI. It is the fourth busiest airport in the world, making the CNMI more accessible for travelers from around the world.

EXTENDING

From Page 1

have come out publicly in support of [S.B. 20-35]."

Extending the lease would allow hotel investors to reinvest in their properties to keep up with the demand, he said. "If we want high-end tourists, we need high-end hotels. And right now, the CNMI just doesn't have it, with maybe the exception of Kensington Hotel."

He added that the CNMI needs Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has an expiring land lease in December 2021. "We need hotels like the Hyatt Regency in particular to upgrade their facilities to meet customer expectations as a Hyatt branded property."

"We cannot expect them to do that without guaranteeing a solid return on investment by allowing for an extension on their lease. It just makes no economic sense to blow millions of dollars in renovation, only to have it potentially disappear in three years."

Concepcion said Hyatt is one of the remaining Japanese-backed properties in the CNMI. "Everyone preaches about Japan. If you want Japanese tourists, we must protect and keep Japanese anchor investments like the Hyatt Regency."

Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa had already expressed their corporation's desire to remain on Saipan. Grandvrio and Aqua Resort Club are also owned by Japanese companies.

The CNMI saw a significant decline in the Japanese tourism market due to the pull-out of Japan Airlines and the lack of direct flights. Delta Air Lines, a few years later, started Japan-Saipan flights but ended their service this month.

The land leases of Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort and Pacific Islands Club Saipan, under the E-Land Group, and TanHoldings' Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Kanoa Resort are also expiring.

United front

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh, PIC's current general manager, also supports Concepcion and the MVA's stand on the land lease issue.

"HANMI, the Saipan Chamber [of Commerce], and MVA requested and were granted a meeting with the House last month to do a presentation regarding S.B. 2035. Without this bill, the continued growth to a sustainable economy is not possible," she said.

"MVA had gone through findings from their Feasibility and Sustainability Study done last year. SCC presented statistics on the position of the economy, which included the collection of taxes."

She added that HANMI also presented data on tourism in the CNMI in the last 26 years, plus the hotel properties that are up for renewal from their expiring land leases.

"Basically, three companies are affected—Hyatt, E-Land (PIC and COP), and TanHoldings (Fiesta and Kanoa). All three companies are very generous and responsible corporate citizens. They are a sure thing," said Cavanagh.

ON HOW TO COLLECT $2.6M FROM QUICHOCHOS

Judge issues order to show cause vs businesswoman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court on Monday directed Jung Ja Kim to explain why the court should not deny her request for an order on how to collect the $2.6-million judgment against disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the order to show cause after no papers were filed in court in connection with Kim's application and no hearing date has been set since the last hearing on Feb. 22, 2018.

Manglona gave Kim until Friday, May 25, to explain why her application for an order in aid of judgment should not be denied.

Kim filed her application for order in aid of judgment last January. At a Feb. 22 hearing, Manglona ordered Kim's counsel, Robert T. Torres, to serve the Quichocho couple with fact information sheets by Feb. 23, 2018.

Manglona gave the Quichochos 30 days to respond.

Torres earlier stated that he would send the information sheets containing the questions to the Quichochos about their assets to determine how they can pay Kim the $2.6-million judgment.

Soon after Kim sought to collect the money from the Quichochos and Quichocho's then-law office, the couple filed for bankruptcy.

Because of the bankruptcy filing in May 2015 U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson suspended proceedings relating to Kim's motion for an order in aid of judgment.

Kim then prosecuted an adverse complaint before the bankruptcy court. The bankruptcy judge, however, denied the discharge of the $2.6-million judgment and maintained it as a continuing debt.

With the judgment still owing, Kim re-filed her motion seeking an order in aid of judgment.

Kim's racketeering lawsuit filed against the Quichochos and Quichocho's law firm ended in 2014 with the federal jury holding the couple liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The court later awarded Kim $387,791 for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees.

Discrimination suit vs Mobil dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court dismissed on Monday the discrimination lawsuit filed against Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. by a man who alleged that he was not hired as a field engineering technician because of his race and national origin.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Nicolas Guy Pohl's lawsuit after the parties agreed to voluntarily drop the case.

Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees, court costs, and expenses.

Exxon Mobil Corp. has previously been dismissed with prejudice from the lawsuit, which means Pohl can no longer re-file his claims against Exxon Mobil.

Pohl and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands agreed that all claims in the case are dismissed without prejudice, which means Pohl may refile the case in the future.

Matthew Holley is counsel for Pohl. Richard L. Johnson and Thomas E. Clifford are lawyers for Mobil Oil Mariana Islands.

In his complaint in 2016, Pohl sued Exxon Mobil, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, and five John Does for discrimination based on race and national origin. He demanded back pay with interest plus compensation and damages.

Pohl alleged that defendants discriminated against him by not hiring him for the position of field engineering technician and that Mobil hired a non-Caucasian, non-American for the job.

Pohl said he is an American Caucasian and qualified for the job.

In October 2017, Manglona dismissed Pohl's original complaint against Exxon Mobil with prejudice for lack of personal jurisdiction.

Mobil Oil has denied the allegations.

Drunk man allegedly punches girlfriend, kicks her on head

A man allegedly punched his girlfriend in the face and kicked her on the head in Koblerville last Saturday night.

Lando P. Towai, 27, was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A bail of $10,000 cash was set Monday for Towai; preliminary hearing is on May 31 at 1:30pm.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Towai. Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan is prosecuting the case.

Police officers responded to a report of a disturbance at a home in Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville Saturday night.

The victim told the officers that her boyfriend, Towai, punched and kicked her after an altercation over her past boyfriend. The victim told police that Towai already appeared drunk when he came home from work at 5pm.

She said she slapped Towai on the chest once. He got mad and was about to grab her. The victim ran and hid behind Towai's aunt for protection. Towai chased and allegedly punched the victim thrice on the face, knocking her to the floor.

Towai walked to the bedroom, came back, and allegedly kicked the victim on the head as she was lying on the floor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Call for submissions: Memorial Day tribute

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) invites veterans, service members, military family members, and members of the community to participate in a special Memorial Day video tribute honoring the men and women who have died while serving in the nation's armed forces, as well as those who passed away after service. Photographs, videos, and visual artwork rare welcome. Submissions will be accepted up to May 23, and should include the names, dates of birth and death, branch of service, rank, unit, any operation or conflict served, as well as a brief message of remembrance, up to 75 words. For more information, or to submit a tribute, contact Johnson at randy.johnson@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647. ***(PR)***

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YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Just an ID is required to register to vote

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will no longer require people to bring passports and birth certificates in order to register to vote at the upcoming Nov. 6 general election, according to CEC executive director Julita Villagomez on Monday.

As this developed, CEC was able to register 79 new voters during their registration drive last May 7 to 18. This brings to 17,248 the total number of voters CNMI-wide.

» Registered voters now 17,248

Villagomez said that people who are eligible to vote should bring only an identification card in order to register.

The election commission used to require passport and birth certificates in order for voters to register, but the Office of the Attorney General informed the CEC last month that these are no longer needed.

For a person to register, he or she has to sign an affidavit of registration that contains a warning of penalty for those who commit fraud.

With respect to CEC's registration drive, Villagomez said they were able to register 14 at the Saipan Southern High School last May 7 and at the Marianas March Against Cancer event.

Twenty-seven persons registered at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last May 16 and 38 others registered at the Tinian High School.

CEC will hold registration at Dr. Rita Jr./Sr. High School on Rota on May 29 and 30.

Another registration drive will be done at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on May 25, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, and at the lobby of Imperial Pacific Resort on June 8 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

IPI PARTNERS WITH MHS
Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility and Marianas High School's "Dolphins" showcase their "Beat Cancer" partnership banner at the Marianas March Against Cancer event.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam-based Palau dance group performs at 'Taste'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Guam-based Palauan dance group made its way to Saipan over the weekend for the first time to perform in the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

Eltel ngerbuns is a Palauan dance group that consists of individuals who are originally from the state of Aimeliik in Palau. The group was formed specifically to represent the cultural dances of the state of Aimeliik.

According to the group's spokesperson, Ellie Ongrung, it was the group's first time to come to Saipan.

"We originally wanted to perform for the Flame Tree [Arts Festival] but…the date was never confirmed, so by the time we actually confirmed with Taste, that's when the dates came out for the Flame Tree but we have already committed to Taste," she said.

Ongrung said their first performance on Saipan turned out to be quite the success. "Saipan is so hospitable, it was so much fun, I just hope that the Saipan residents enjoyed it."

The group performed a total of three full song sets and one micro-mix set consisting of songs from other islands in Micronesia aside from Palau.

Ongurung said the community can expect the *Eltel ngerbuns* to return to the CNMI for future performances.

"We actually just met with the Aimeliik club here on Saipan and the goal is to try and either come back annually or every other year," she said.

The trip was funded by the Guam Aimeliik club through their various fundraisers.

"You never know what to expect when you go somewhere new…but everyone [here] was just so nice…we just hope that we gave a good show for the residents and we hope to be back," she said.

Some in Guam feel magnitude 5.6 quake

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A magnitude 5.6 earthquake has struck near the Mariana Trench off Guam.

The U.S. Geological Survey said that Tuesday's earthquake struck 47 miles (76 kilometers) southeast of Inarajan, Guam. It had a depth of 9.69 miles (15.6 kilometers). Preliminary data showed a magnitude of 6.0, but it was later downgraded to 5.6.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center says there's no tsunami threat to Guam, a U.S. territory, or the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth.

According to the USGS website there were no immediate reports of damage but some people in Guam reported feeling weak shaking.

USGS geophysicist Rafael Abreu said the earthquake is related to subduction in the Mariana Trench; that's when two tectonic plates collide and one goes under the other.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Kevin, Amy most popular baby names in 2017

Kevin and Amy topped the list of the most popular baby names in American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands in 2017, according to the Social Security Administration.

The top five boys' names for 2017 in the three U.S. territories were Kevin, Ethan, Daniel, William, and Michael, while the top girls' names last year were Amy, Olivia, Sophia, Ava, and Emma.

Nancy A. Berryhill, acting commissioner of Social Security, announced last week that Liam and Emma were the most popular baby names in the U.S. How does American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov, to see the top national baby names for 2017.

Acting commissioner Berryhill encourages everyone to visit the agency's website to enjoy the baby names list and create a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing through to the time they receive Social Security benefits.

Social Security beneficiaries can have instant access to their benefit verification letter, payment history, and complete earnings record by establishing a "*my* Social Security" account. Beneficiaries also can change their address, start or change direct deposit information, and print a replacement SSA-1099 online. People receiving benefits can request a replacement Medicare card online.

Individuals age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can also sign up for a "*my* Social Security" account to get their personalized online Social Security statement. The online statement provides workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement.

The agency began compiling the baby name list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. At the time of a child's birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child's Social Security card, thus making Social Security America's source for the most popular baby names.

In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys and girls names for 2017.

To read about the winners for the biggest jump in popularity and to see how pop culture affects baby names, go to https://www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/releases/. ***(SSA)***

Merante makes honors list at FDU

MADISON, NJ—Mark Samuel Merante of Saipan, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus, located in Madison, NJ, has been named to the honors list for the spring 2017 semester.

To qualify for the list, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's Florham Campus is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County.

Fairleigh Dickinson University is New Jersey's largest private university and features more than 100 liberal arts and professional degree programs, two international campuses, dozens of partnerships with internationally renowned institutions and special programs and status within the United Nations. For more information, go to www.fdu.edu. ***(PR)***

Yap Robo Day highlights technical excellence in Micronesia

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant controls his robot in the Yap Robo Day in an elimination-style robotics competition at the Yap State Sports Complex.

Student achievement and the U.S.-Micronesian partnership were on display this week in Yap, as five high schools battled it out in an elimination-style robotics competition.

Yap Robo Day was the culmination of a yearlong project in which student-led teams designed and built robots. The league provides students at remote island schools practical experience in science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM.

"Through the Yap Robo League, the students have turned tiny scraps of metal and plastic into complicated robots that are able to complete complex tasks," said U.S. assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech in a written statement read to attendees. "You can apply the same principles as you continue through life and pursue your own ambitious goals for education and growth in the future."

The event was held at the Yap State Sports Complex and featured teams from Yap High School, Outer Islands High School, Yap Catholic High School, Yap SDA School, and Faith Christian Academy. Students, families, and the public gathered to watch timed matches in which robots raced to pick up colored donuts and place them on goal posts and in corner goals, or scramble to block other team's robots attempting to do the same.

Both the Yap State Public Service Corp. and the Pacific Missionary Airline fielded corporate partner teams, composed of staffers who served as teachers and mentors to the students over the course of the school year. Yap's State Department of Education supported and prioritized the work throughout.

The Yap Robo League was first established in 2011 by Habele, a U.S.-based nonprofit that provided donated robotics kits to two high schools. In 2017 an investment from the Office of Insular Affairs allowed for expansion to a true statewide, student-driven, league.

After a heated series of multi-team qualification games and elimination battles, Yap Catholic High School's team emerged as the winner, with Outer Islands High School earning a close second place.

A key theme woven throughout the event was the sustainability of the league as a mechanism both for fostering student learning and as a vehicle for cooperation among schools, which has extended to sports and other efforts beyond robots.

"I said it multiple times throughout the planning process, and it certainly remains true: getting the first year under our belts is the biggest challenge. Now it is just a matter of replicating and improving," said Michael Wiencek, principal of Yap Catholic School.

Part of the league's success and key to its sustainability are the partnerships developed between students in Yap and schools in the U.S. Robotics teams at Chaminade College Preparatory School in Los Angeles, California and South River High School in Edgewater, Maryland in particular provided material donations and peer-to-peer technical assistance.

Citing the decadeslong strategic partnership between the United States and Federated States of Micronesia, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley said, "Robo Day has a special significance in this regard, as private Americans have traveled to Yap to work closely and one-on-one with the next generation on innovative and cutting-edge technology to help set the agenda for Yap's future. Technology is critical to economic development and private sector development, which in turn is critical to the future of the FSM. Habele has been in the forefront of this effort, establishing capacity and providing peer-to-peer support as Yapese navigate their own path as individuals and communities." ***(Habele)***

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance May 24th, 2018 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from April 19th, 2018

II. **Public Comments**

III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. Committees
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. **Old Business**
   1. NMTI Request for Reconsideration (Open Enrollment)

V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2018 Application Status

VI. **Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**

VII. **Misc.**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
IV. Public Comments
V. Executive Session: To consult with Legal Counsel.
VI. To vote on the evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer
VII. Adjournment

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-015

PROPOSED TOILET FACILITIES FOR ROTA VARIOUS LOCATION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Departmentof Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Proposed Toilet Facilities for Rota Various Location**, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 9, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 25, 2018**, 10:00 a.m. local time at **Rota Mayor Office, Rota**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 5, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-015".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time June 8, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 8, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 8, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 19, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 22, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on June 8, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

'Rezoning bill contradicts law on poker arcades

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed Friday a bill that allows poker arcades to operate in previously nonconforming lots in the southwestern side of Saipan.

In a vote of 15-4, the delegation passed Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 20-48 despite opposition from the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

H.L.B. 20-48 rezones lots abutting the road beginning from the intersection of Koblerville Road and Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road to the intersection of Koblerville Road and Adobu Drive; all lots abutting the road beginning from the intersection of Chalan Msgr. Road and As Perdido Road to the intersection of Chalan Msgr. Road and Tun Joaquin Doi Drive; Kagman Drive and Gapgap Drive to the final lot before Kagman Drive curves eastward, and Garapan core, Garapan East and Beach Road zoning districts into "mixed commercial," which allows the operation of poker parlors.

Rep. Ed K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) all voted against the bill's passage.

According to a Dec. 19, 2017, communication from the Commonwealth Zoning Board, H.L.B. 20-48 contradicts Saipan Local Law 18-5, which intends to move poker parlors away from villages and into designated zones.

"The mixed commercial rezoning will not only permit the existing poker establishments to continue to operate in and among our residential villages, but it will also allow back the operation of poker establishments who recently vacated these areas," said Zoning board chair Diego Blanco.

"This bill will allow three poker [arcades] to continue to operate in Kagman, one poker [parlor] in Koblerville, and three poker [parlors] in As Lito Area. This bill will further allow new poker or adult gambling machine businesses to operate," Blanco added.

During discussions on the bill, Sablan said the intention is to protect a potential $1.44 million in Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance funding. He said that, at $12,000 in annual renewal fees apiece, the bill protects a major source of funding for SHEFA.

There are about 120 poker machines in the CNMI.

Bridge Capital donates $5K to TOC

As part of its commitment to support community organizations and projects, Bridge Capital recently donated $5,000 for the upcoming 23rd Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

"The annual Governor's Tournament of Champions has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that benefit numerous community projects," said Tucker Baldwin, corporate operating officer of Bridge Capital. "We are proud to be part of the event and look forward to this weekend's tournament and wish all players good luck."

"Bridge Capital's contribution goes a long way to ensure the success of this year's and previous Governor's Tournaments of Champions," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director. "We are grateful for the company's unwavering support over the years."

The 23rd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on May 26 and 27. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 cash, $300 cash, a Casio watch, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 cash for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include a brand new 2018 Hyundai Kona donated by Triple J Motors, a brand new 2018 Honda Civic Coupe, a $5,000 hole in-one cash prize donated by Pacifica Insurance, $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by McDonald's of Saipan, one year free golf donated by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, one roundtrip ticket to anywhere in Asia donated by Asiana Airlines, and one roundtrip ticket to Guangzhou or Shanghai, China, donated by Saipan Travel Inc.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Kensington Hotel Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 TOC, contact Marie Sablan at 236-2572 or Marida Pensader at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(NMC)***

Bridge Capital recently announced their $5,000 donation for the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions that will be held on May 26 and 27, 2018. From left, Dora Lizama, TOC committee member; Jose Tudela, TOC committee member; Tucker Baldwin, Bridge Capital's corporate operating officer; Ray Camacho, TOC committee member; and Marie Sablan, TOC committee member. NMC

Calvo's Insurance recently donated $1,500 to the organizers of the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held on May 26 and 27, 2018,at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Eli Buenaventura, general manager of Calvo's Insurance, far left, and Sandy Tse, Calvo's Select Care representative, far right, presented the donation check to the Governor's Tournament of Champion's committee members. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sorensen Media Group/Power 99 is helping to support the 2018 Governor's Tournament of Champions by donating more than $5,000 worth of promotional advertisements. The tournament will be held this Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, 2018. From left, Marie Sablan, TOC committee member; James Nelson, general manager of Power 99; Jose Tudela, TOC committee member; Dora Lizama, TOC committee member; and Marida Pensader, TOC committee member. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Romaine lettuce in NMI cleared of E. coli

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. cleared yesterday all romaine lettuce in the Commonwealth from possible E. coli contamination.

In an advisory, it said it is unlikely that any romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region is still available in people's homes, stores, or restaurants due to its 21-day shelf life.

The affected lettuce was reportedly harvested from the Yuma growing region in Arizona.

While the outbreak of E. coli infection is ongoing, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the last shipments of romaine lettuce from Yuma, Arizona, were harvested on April 16, 2018, and the harvest season is over.

The most recent illnesses reported to the Centers for Disease Control started when romaine lettuce from the Yuma was likely still available in stores, restaurants, and in peoples' homes.

Nonetheless, it is still important to protect your health by following these simple tips:

■ Wash your hands. Wash hands after using the restroom or changing diapers, before and after preparing or eating food, and after contact with animals.

■ Don't prepare food or drink for others when you are sick.

■ Don't cross-contaminate food preparation areas. Thoroughly wash hands, counters, cutting boards, and utensils after they touch raw meat.

■ Wash fruits and vegetables before eating, unless the package says the contents have been washed.

To report a notifiable disease or possible E. coli infection, notify territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White in the Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Laboratory Capacity Program by email at surveillance@chcc.gov.mp or call the CHCC at (670) 234-8950.

To report a possible source of contaminated romaine lettuce (produce sold in stores or served in restaurants), call the Bureau of Environmental Health at (670) 664-4870/72/73 or by sending an email to the BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Amata honors life and memory of 'Teno'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Aumua Amata of American Samoa honored the accomplished life of former CNMI governor Pedro "Teno" Pangelinan Tenorio, who led a life of public service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Amata released the following statement:

"I had the honor of spending time with Governor Tenorio many times, and witnessing firsthand his devotion to public service. Gov. Tenorio's service in public life coincided with my father's service to American Samoa, and, as a result, we all became close personal friends and we enjoyed the company of Governor 'Teno' and first lady Sophie Tenorio at many conferences and activities in both Washington, D.C. and the Pacific. As first lady colleagues, Sophie and my mother, Nora, were especially close.

"Teno was a wonderful person. He conducted himself with dignity and purpose, but what truly endeared him to the people he served was his genuine humility. He had a rare way with people, because it came from the heart. He lived with integrity and led with vision.

"I am saddened by the news of his passing, but I know his legacy will continue in the Northern Marianas, and his life will be celebrated. The people of the Commonwealth put their trust in him as governor for 12 years, and made him the longest-serving governor in their history. He was a fellow alumnus of my alma mater, the University of Guam, and was well-known and widely respected throughout the Pacific, the other territories and all those who worked with him over the years.

"We pray that God will be close to his dear personal friends and family in this time. Fred and I offer our deepest condolences to former first lady Sophie Tenorio, the children and their entire family." ***(PR)***

Search for new UOG president down to 3 finalists

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam Presidential Search Committee named yesterday the three finalists for the next UOG president.

Interim UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood is already retired; he's been named interim president until June.

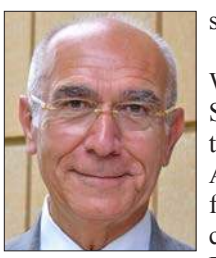
PSC chair William Leon Guerrero said the three finalists will be invited to visit the campus later next month to meet with students, faculty, Underwood, the university board of regents, and other stakeholders. The dates of their impending visits will be announced at a later time. After the visits take place, the board will make an offer to the candidate of their choice.

The names of the finalists are: Dr. Thomas W. Krise; Dr. Bruce T. Murphy; and Dr. Hamid Shirvani.

"The caliber of these finalists is at an extremely high level. The PSC is very impressed with their credentials and wide range of substantive experiences. We are excited with what they each potentially have to offer toward the continued progress and growth of the university. After we meet with all of the finalists in person, the [board] will be able to determine who would make the best fit for the campus," said Leon Guerrero.

Murphy

Krise


Shirvani

The finalists were identified for the first time since the search began in March.

The PSC received 60 applicants by its April 27 deadline and narrowed the list to nine semifinalists. After extensive interviews with the nine semifinalists, the three individuals named above were selected to become finalists.

The UOG board of regents appointed the PSC to coordinate the search for the new university president.

The PSC consists of eight members and is chaired by Leon Guerrero, who served as a past chairperson for the board. Other members of the committee include Elizabeth Gayle, Elvin Chiang, Antoinette Sanford, Christopher Felix, Dr. Kate Moots, Annie Fay Camacho, and Sophia Chu.

After 10 years at the helm of UOG, Underwood retired on May 4. The board has asked him to stay on as interim president until June 30, or when the presidential search is completed.

Dr. Richard A. Wueste of AGB Search assisted with the search process. AGB Search was founded by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges in 2010 and is the only firm that specializes in all aspects of executive search exclusively for higher education institutions. ***(PR)***

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 24, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of May 24, 2018
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2018
V. Action Items
VI. Reports
  a. Chairperson
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VII. Old Business
  a. Video Remote Interpreting and Remote Captioning
VIII. New Business
  a. CIRCLES Transition Meeting
  b. Sensitivity & Disability Awareness Presentation for CNMI Policymakers
  c. 2018 Disability Sports Fest
  d. Benefits Planning Training
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting - July 2018
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Safer streets will mean more bikers

By CHRIS RILEY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

May is National Bike Month, a good time to appreciate the innovations that put more sustainable transportation options on city streets. We now have smartphone-enabled bike-sharing programs, along with "dockless" bikes and scooters that anyone can use. There is growing interest in these alternatives, especially among millennials.

But the pace of change will be limited until we fix a fundamental problem: Our streets, roads and highways are deadly. About 40,000 Americans die on them every year; that's comparable to a jetliner carrying 150 people crashing every single weekday. Many more people are seriously injured.

There would be fewer auto deaths if more people used other forms of transportation. But, ironically, one reason that doesn't happen is because people are afraid to bike.

A survey taken in Portland in 2011 found that 60 percent of respondents said they were interested in biking but too concerned about their safety to ride regularly.

The innovation we really need, then, is something that gets at that fundamental problem of danger. Fortunately, we already know how to achieve that.

Many cities worldwide have significantly reduced deaths and injuries from car crashes. In the Netherlands, for example, a popular movement against traffic deaths in the 1970s resulted in a national commitment to safer urban design. By 2011, traffic deaths in the Netherlands had dropped 81 percent.

Closer to home, New York City made huge safety advances by adapting its streets to provide better protection against the misjudgments of drivers. After the city installed 60 new plazas and more than 35 miles of protected bike lanes, the number of daily cyclists boomed, growing 68 percent from 2010 to 2014. And notably, the streets became safer for all users: traffic fatalities dropped to the lowest numbers ever recorded.

Reducing the fear of death will not, by itself, fill our streets with pedestrians and bicyclists. Walkability expert Jeff Speck has pointed out that it's not enough for a walk to be safe; it also needs to be useful, comfortable and interesting. The same is true of biking, scooting and skating.

The corridors that now carry much of our car traffic are seldom comfortable or interesting places. To make them inviting for all, we must allow greater concentrations of homes and business within human-scale distances, with pleasant pathways along the corridors. And we must limit the speed of car traffic to levels associated with traditional streets.

As long as our streets remain dangerous and unappealing, advances like bike-sharing programs will remain peculiarities enjoyed by a hardy few. But if we rethink our streets and land use, we can create conditions that will draw vast numbers of people to move from place to place without cars. That will not only ease traffic; it will improve our health, and the health of the planet.

True self-determination lies in sovereignty

By STEPHEN CARINO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Stephen Cariño's speech at the Attorney General Cup speech competition last May 4.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we govern ourselves according to our Covenant and the CNMI Constitution. That is false. There exists a series of Supreme Court opinions that makes the U.S. Congress our ruler. The Insular Cases were decided over a hundred years ago in 1901. Three years before, in 1898, the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War, gaining three new territories. These were Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands. The Insular Cases were court cases that originated in these territories, and eventually made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the Insular Cases, the Supreme Court had to decide whether or not the U.S. Constitution would apply in these territories. Previously, the Constitution followed the flag. But these new territories, filled with foreign peoples and separated by ocean, seemed unfit for either self-government or statehood.

Writing the majority opinion for the 1901 insular case *Downes v. Bidwell*, Supreme Court Justice Edward Douglass White wrote that "those possessions are inhabited by alien races, differing from us in religion, customs, laws, methods of taxation, and modes of thought." To the Supreme Court, this made governing the territories according to Anglo-Saxon principles impossible. So the court decided that it would be best if the U.S. Constitution did not automatically apply in these territories, even though they were controlled by the United States. Only vague fundamental rights would automatically be protected in the territories. All other provisions of the Constitution would have to be passed by Congress to take effect. That is the Insular Cases Doctrine.

However, today, some consider the Insular Cases to be very beneficial to the territories. The *NYU Law Review* said that the Insular Cases enable local peoples to protect their cultures and govern themselves as they desire. They say that the cases grant the territories flexibility in governing themselves. This is false. The Insular Cases grant the territories as much flexibility as a leash grants a dog, it can be tightened and pulled back at the whims of its owner, in this case, Congress. The opinions of the Insular Cases say as much. In the opinion for *Downes v. Bidwell*, Justice Edward Douglass White wrote that "if the conquered are a fierce, savage, and restless people, the conqueror may govern them with a tighter rein so as [...] to keep them under subjection."

Today, U.S. territories may govern themselves to an extent, but Congress can at any time pass any laws to change this, thanks to the Insular Cases Doctrine. Congress has absolute power over the territories. And the territories do not have voting representation in the Congress. The Insular Cases are not concerned with our unique culture and history.

The Insular Cases also create different classes of U.S. citizens. If the Constitution only applies to some citizens and not others, that is the result. That is the point of the Insular Cases. They discriminate against Americans based on where they live in the United States. According to sitting First Circuit Judge Juan Torruella, "the Insular Cases should be soundly rejected because they [go] against the most basic precept for which this nation stands: the equality before the law of all of its citizenship." For example, people born in the territory American Samoa are not U.S. citizens at birth, even though birthright citizenship is guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment in all places under the jurisdiction of the United States; this is a clear denial of constitutional rights that is only possible because of the Insular Cases.

Now, how relevant are the Insular Cases in the CNMI? We are also a territory, affected by this just like Guam and Puerto Rico, aren't we? The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit says that we are a territory under the Insular Cases, and they have decided cases affecting the CNMI using the Insular Cases to justify their opinions. This is wrong and should not be the case.

The court case *Wabol v. Villacrusis*, decided by the Ninth Circuit in 1990, upholds Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, which restricts landownership in the CNMI to those of Northern Marianas descent. The court used the Insular Cases to justify their decision. The court said that the right to own land in the CNMI is not a fundamental right under the Insular Cases, so landownership restriction is okay in the CNMI. However, the Insular Cases were not needed to reach this conclusion. The Covenant and CNMI Constitution already allow Article 12, so the Insular Cases were unnecessary here. Article 12 still would be constitutional without Insular Cases. During the Covenant negotiations, the Department of Justice expressed the view that properly drawn land alienation restrictions would be valid under the United States Constitution. The Justice Department did not say that it would be valid if it met the Insular Cases doctrine, since the Insular Cases are unnecessary here. Even though the Ninth Circuit upheld the ruling of the CNMI Supreme Court, they did not have to take on this case. It only serves to corrode the sovereignty and self-government of the CNMI.

In the 1999 case *Rayphand v. Sablan*, also decided by the Ninth

See TRUE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Si Cain yan Abet

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Iman-sabiun I Deni` mahatsa sueddun niha 80 pot sientu. Gi mismu tiempu maluñu` ha`anen mas ke 14,000 na empleau ni man-sentagpapa` sueddun niha. Ma-upus nesessidat mayotmente para una` potput betsan niha.

Este siha na empleau pumadedese didog na sapet pot tinanahuñg chiguan para nesessidat familian niha. Gi mismu tiempu debi u fan man-apase guma` familia, kareta, neñkanu`, apas hospitat, magagu, yan otru siha obligasion. Ya in` lañgag umupus nesessidat niha?

Dispues, atan i difirensia gi hatsada sa` mampus chagu` yan sueddun este siha na empleau. Haf` taimanu na ti in`li`e este? Man-malefa hamyu na obligasion miyu umadelanta suffisiente na monedan familia? Lau hamyu finenina in` akude?

Yangin inna daña i hatsada yan otru siha benefisiu i sueddun miyu ti menus ke $112,400 gi sakan. Chagu` papa` i sueddun 14,000 na empleau ni man-mamatmus gi sueddun popble. Tras in` tira siñku pot sientu na ñganan manog? Taiguine in` pega estau i tautau ni in` represesenta? Lastima!

Si Teno`

Triste finattun este na semana `nai ha diñgu` hit hagas gobietno-ta as Pedro (Pete) P. Tenorio. Apmam mañetbe kontodu tres tetminu kumu tatan iya Marianas. Sumaunau-yu` man-ayuda gi papa` administrasioña. Magahet na sattun na kabesiyu gi asuntun linahyan siha.

Kalagtus na maga`lahe ya ha tuñgu` kabales i tautauña siha gi halum gobietnu. `An hali`e na siña mas un` adelanta hau yan setbisiun publiku seguru na nina`e hau appottunidat. Uncle Pete, Si Yuus Maase` pot todu ya i korun man-añghet un` inesgaihon hulu` gi taihinekog na deskansun gi lañget.

Estrakada

I para u achanda dos pattida pot planu yan fuetsa siempre u te`ug gi ti apmam yan pa`gu. Tali`e haf` para uma-offrese entalu` haye mangaige gi siya yan i dumiseseha humatme parehu ridondun publiku.

Para hafa tana` chagu`: Giya hagu mismu haf` unu un` komple ni umadelanta ginanan monedan familia? Debi este inna` la`agañg pot kulan mampos ñañgon! Puntu: I publiku ha tuñgu klaru asuntoña siha. Sañgan dibuenamente klaru i faktu!

Siakassu na taya` bidamu pues haf` na un` atrebi malagu? Na ti todu tinituhun ni lache siempre lache uttimoña? Tatnai in` repara i kuestion: an` un` embrasa kustumbre fatsu na setbisiu u guaha kampun adelantu gi otru tetminu?

Finatsu

Hu repasa inekuñgog pot Marianas ni komiten Sen. Murkowski gi US Senate. I aminasun lai inipus na`mamahlau `nai mafa` huegu diskuidu gi man-sustansiau siha na asuntu. Kau lamayot patte guine na diskuidu i ti in`tiñgu sattun haf` obligasion miyu kumu setbienten publiku?

Anog na trabiha ti lilistu i tropa kumatga dichu obligasion niha kumu representanten i tautau. Kulan mafa` huegu i man-sustansiau siha na attikulu. Fan ma`ase` ya in` bisitan maisa hamyu finenina ya in` atan fotmat obligasion miyu. Muñga masede komiten Sen. Murkowski na u apunta huyuñg haf` dichu obligasion para u mana fitme mas disposision asuntun linahyan.

Inbetsion

Gi mediu nobenta siha na sakan mauleg kinalamten ekonomiata. Sosopbla fondu para todu nesessidat-ta. Dumaña` homlu` na industrian turista, magagu, yan setbisiu. Dispues, mahuchum i industrian magagu. Sinigunduye `nai man-hanau inbetsionistan Japones. Man-mañufa` hit dañkulun mattiñgan.

Esta pa`gu tita chuchule` tatte maliñgun miyon pot miyon pesus gi hiniyuñg fakterian magagu yan inbetsion (salape`) Japones. Mientras tantus sali hit de man-esuette gi haf` humalum ni umayuda i solu ekonomian Marianas tat kumu industrian turista. Tatnai in` repara na mampus hamatompu` este na industria? Siña ta añgoghu kumu pisun ekonomia guine?

Inipus paska yan sentidu na asuntu ekonomian isla pot faktu na tai mina yan i tanu` mampus dikiki`. Ayu na manu` ha` humalum tafalague. Haf` na hinalum tinilaikan tasi, afnu` yan ma`te. Lastima sa` esta pa`gu ni planu hit taya`.

Suabe

Sessu hu dandan un` suabe na piano "Whispering Hope". Un` kanta ni in` eyag gi eskuelan elementariu antes. Gi megai na dinaña` mame sessu in` kanta yan otru siha sunidu. Bonitu na kanta.

Mafattu mahalañg-hu ni dopbladan dos-tres bos guihe siha na kanta. Guaha `nai hu deka` ñaihon gitalahu dispues hu pega gi un` banda. Makat huna` fonhayan pot mafattu mahalañg-hu ni mañeluhu ni esta man-hanau. Magahet na bonitu i dopblada `nai man-hame mañganta antes.

**Ha`ane:** `An katma i ha`ane piot ya silensiu esta na chatsaga pot maipe yan eku ni mapot ta pula` haf` mensahe. Hu nañgan ñaihon señat kau para u uchan, suette pat dimalas. Otdinariamente malofan i ha`ane todu felis.

Guaha-yu` sumañgane na para u fattu un` tautau para bai`n ali`e. Ayu na inali`e siempre ha tulaika ha`anihu petmanente. Chumaleg-yu` pot metgot inañgogho-hu gi disposision i Nanalibreg-hu. Fuera de si Lusifet!

Yangin guiya numa`e-yu` patte bai ekuñgog sattun haf` dispues para bai faposgue. Pa`gu `an parehu ham tautau pues bai dispacha pot parehu sensin. Ni fuetsan santos timana`e ya para bai ekuñgog-gue`? Disposision ginen hilu` tatnai lache. Po`lu ta adispensa pot amesta.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The manipulation of government funds for political purposes

The recent decision to conduct a meeting on Rota was clearly a means for the administration to get the government to pay for the travel so they could launch their GOP rally on Rota with roadside waving and it was not a coincidence. While this cannot be proven, the truth and the devil are in the details.

My question is: How long will the people of the CNMI put up with these ugly activities? The questionable act by the administration is the only question that needs to be answered in the coming election. Your votes are the determining factor on who should run our government and meet the people's expectation with honesty and transparency.

We must protect our island and we must take back what have been abused for such a long time and fix it for good. The people of the Marianas deserve a better government.

If you want to be a good leader for the people, then you must possess the hearts and soul of the CNMI people. Never underestimate "the power of the people." We may not have the power now, but in coming election, people's power will rise and will determine who would be the captain of the ship that will lead us to a better Marianas.

Jack Muna
Koblerville, Saipan

Thank you

Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects president Larry Manacop would like to thank all members and officers of Mafea for the support, hard work, and cooperation for the just concluded Basic Plan Reading Training that ended last May 6, 2018, and he hopes that the knowledge they acquired from the training would help them perform their jobs better and develop their work skills.

There were 28 attendees who received their certificates of completion on basic plan reading on civil, architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical plans. The training introduced a complete plan for a three-bedroom residential house as training material.

Manacop would also like to thank Philippine honorary consul Eli Arago and United Filipino Organization president Marlon Regaton for witnessing the conclusion and awarding of certificates. In his remarks, Consul Arago gave thanks to Mafea for helping those who wanted to upgrade their skills through training such as this.

Carlito J. Marquez
Lower Base, Saipan

TRUE

From Page 10

Circuit, the court decided that the composition of the Commonwealth Senate was constitutional. As with *Wabol v. Villacrusis*, the court largely based their decision on the Insular Cases Doctrine. Again, the Insular Cases were not necessary here because the Covenant and the CNMI Constitution do allow the CNMI Senate to be composed the way it is, with each senatorial district getting three senators. This is explained in the Section by Section Analysis of the Covenant, created in 1975 by the Marianas Political Status Commission. According to the analysis, the CNMI Senate is intended to be analogous to the U.S. Senate. The analysis makes no mention of any possible unconstitutionality of the Senate, which is telling. The Insular Cases are irrelevant and should not have been used to reach the decisions in these court cases regarding the Commonwealth.

We are not a territory of the United States, at least not a territory as described by the Insular Cases. The Insular Cases, decided in 1901, were concerned specifically with the territories that the United States acquired after the Spanish-American War, which were Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands. If you read the opinions of those cases, they specifically talk about territories acquired forcefully through war. The Insular Cases should only apply to such territories and not the Commonwealth because we are distinct from rest of America's territories. The people of the NMI democratically decided to be in political union with the United States. According to the opinion in *Sablan v. Inos*, decided by the NMI Supreme Court in 1993, "the people of the NMI entered into the Covenant to become a self-governing commonwealth in political union with and under the sovereignty of the U.S.; they did not enter into the Covenant to become a territory or possession of the U.S." Both the CNMI Constitution and the Covenant do not name the Commonwealth as a territory of the United States. None of the territories have a mutual consent agreement with the United States; we do. None of the territories have the right to local self-government; we do. We are an entirely different case from the territories acquired after the Spanish-American War, those territories described by the Insular Cases. The Insular Cases were only about them, not us. The Insular Cases should only apply to them, not us. These are the sentiments expressed in the decision of the 1984 case, *NMI v. Atalig*, decided by the Ninth Circuit: "The NMI[`s] political status is distinct from that of unincorporated territories such as Puerto Rico. This argument is credible."

But subsequent decisions by the federal courts argue otherwise. They still consider us to be a United States territory under the Insular Cases. As such, we are under the rule of a Congress that can at any time violate and take away our rights and self-government. Hence why the Insular Cases should not apply here, along with reasons stated earlier.

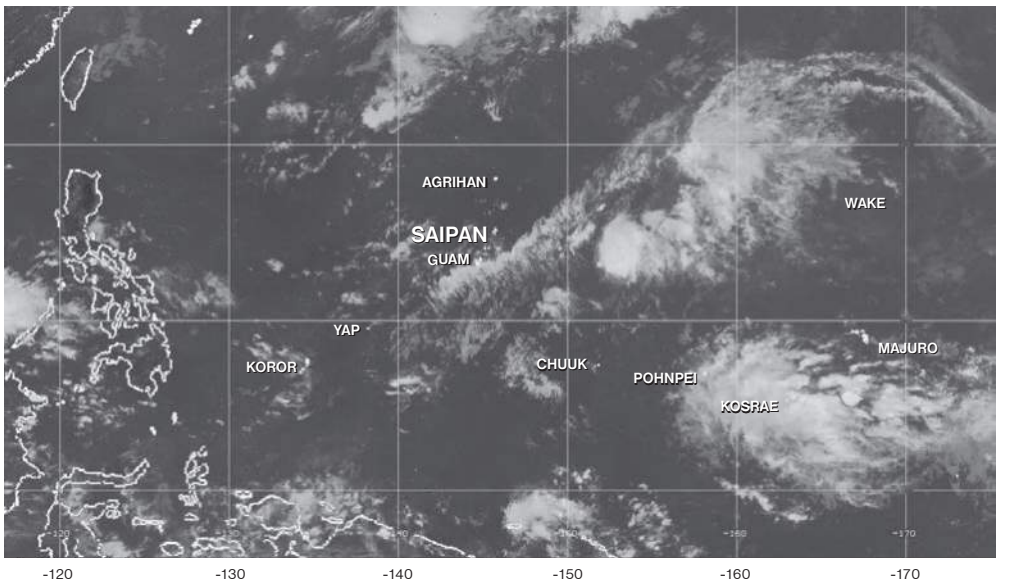
This is the Covenant, our mutual agreement with the United States defining our political relationship. It was agreed that the CNMI would have the right to self-government. The Insular Cases doctrine allows the federal government to easily violate this agreement because it gives Congress leeway to do anything they want with us. As long as it applies, our self-government can be taken away. If that happens, this agreement is nothing but trash. True self-determination then lies in sovereignty.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:52 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A weak surface trough is passing across the Marianas today. East winds this morning will shift to southeast by late this afternoon as the trough passes. Only a few showers and light winds are expected with the trough. Yesterday the light winds and daytime heating combined to produce showers and a few afternoon thunderstorms over Guam. Moisture has decreased and while it is possible that a few showers will develop over Guam during the afternoon, thunderstorms are not expected. Deep layer moisture will continue to decrease during the coming week and only isolated showers are anticipated tonight through Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 63°
Hong Kong	Sunny	83° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorm	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	81° / 76°
New York	Mostly Sunny	80° / 62°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Paris	Thunderstorm	77° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°
Rome	Showers	73° / 59°
Salem	Thunderstorm	83° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	75° / 54°
Tokyo	Rain	82° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
9:17 AM	LOW TIDE	0.93
2:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.45
8:49 PM	LOW TIDE	0.21

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:08 AM	1:12 PM
Thursday	-	1:53 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	2:36 AM	2:59 PM
Saturday	-	3:17 AM	3:51 PM
Sunday	-	3:58 AM	4:42 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Result of US-China talks: Short-term relief, long-term risks

AP
White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow speaks during a television interview outside the West Wing of the White House, in Washington, Friday, May 18, 2018.

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the short run, a truce in the trade conflict between the United States and China has lightened tensions, halted the immediate threat of U.S. tariffs on China's goods and cheered stock markets.

The long-run picture may not be so sunny.

The outcome of last weekend's talks upset supporters of Donald Trump's American First policies, left key differences untouched and kept alive the risk of a destructive trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

A vague statement the two countries released said next to nothing about the issue at the heart of the dispute between Washington and Beijing: The hardball tactics China uses to challenge U.S. technological supremacy. Those tactics include outright cyber theft of trade secrets and demands that American companies hand over some of their technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

"They failed to drill down on the biggest frictions facing U.S. businesses and on those where we are most able to move the Chinese," said Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist who specializes in trade.

In exchange for the United States agreeing to hold off on tariffs on up to $150 billion in Chinese goods, Beijing did agree to "substantially reduce" America's huge trade deficit with China. But Beijing made no specific commitment.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's declaration that the American tariffs would be suspended contributed to a sense of relief in global markets that the two countries had stepped back from the brink.

The celebration could prove premature.

"We are not out of the danger zone yet," said Nick Marro, a China analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit. "There is still a high risk of a trade war, even if the timeline to getting there has been extended."

Beijing refused to knuckle under to a U.S. demand to slash the U.S. trade gap by a specific amount: $200 billion, a figure seen by most economists as wildly unrealistic anyway. The U.S. ran a deficit with China in goods and services last year of $337 billion.

Lovely, the Syracuse economist, said the U.S. was distracted by an "ill-advised focus" on the trade deficit. She said the Chinese, who increasingly have their own technology to defend, might be open to strengthening intellectual-property protections and to pressuring local governments to stop demanding technology transfers.

U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer issued a sharp statement: "Getting China to open its market to more U.S. exports is significant, but the far more important issues revolve around forced technology transfers, cyber theft and the protection of our innovation."

"The U.S.," Lighthizer continued, "may use all of its legal tools to protect our technology through tariffs, investment restrictions and export regulations. Real structural change is necessary. "

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the threatened tariffs had been suspended "right now," but would not be removed as a negotiating or enforcement tool.

"I don't think we're saying tariffs are over—far from it," he said in an interview with CNBC.

Trump is dispatching Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to try to settle on the kinds of details that were sidestepped in last week's talks with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Liu He.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sony invests in image sensors, acquires more of EMI Music

TOKYO (AP)—Electronics and entertainment company Sony Corp. is investing 1 trillion yen ($9 billion) mostly in image sensors over the next three years. Sony also says it reached a deal to acquire for $2.3 billion from Mubadala Investment Co. a 60 percent stake in EMI Music Publishing, which has under its wing classics, such as the Motown catalog and Queen, as well as Kanye West, Alicia Keys and other contemporary artists. Sony already owns 30 percent so once the deal is finalized, Sony will own 90 percent of EMI, according to the Tokyo-based maker of the Walkman portable player and Aibo robot. Sony's recently tapped CEO Kenichiro Yoshida told reporters Tuesday the company's lead in sensors is key for evolving technology like self-driving cars and artificial intelligence.

UK government does not intend to block Comcast-Sky deal

LONDON (AP)—Britain's government says it does not intend to refer U.S. media conglomerate Comcast's 22 billion pound ($30.7 billion) takeover offer for London-based Sky to competition authorities, saying the proposed merger doesn't raise concerns on public interest grounds. Culture Secretary Matt Hancock says he's "reviewed the relevant evidence" and that he is "minded not to issue" an intervention notice. He says the "proposed merger does not raise concerns in relation to public interest considerations which would meet the threshold for intervention". The parties have until 5 p.m. May 24 for submissions before he makes a final decision on whether to intervene.

Divided Supreme Court sides with businesses over workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that businesses can prohibit their workers from banding together in disputes over pay and conditions in the workplace, a decision that affects an estimated 25 million non-unionized employees.

With the court's five conservative members in the majority, the justices held that individual employees can be forced to use arbitration, not the courts, to air complaints about wages and overtime. Four dissenting liberal justices said the decision will hit low-wage, vulnerable workers especially hard.

While the complaints in Monday's decision involved pay issues, the outcome also might extend to workplace discrimination and other disputes if employee contracts specify that they must be dealt with in one-on-one arbitration.

Workers who want to take action against sexual harassment, pay discrimination, pregnancy discrimination and racial discrimination "may now be forced behind closed doors into an individual, costly - and often secret - arbitration process," said Fatima Goss Graves, president and CEO of the National Women's Law Center.

Lawyers representing management said the decision protects businesses from endless, costly litigation.

The outcome does not affect people represented by labor unions, but an estimated 25 million employees work under contracts that prohibit collective action by employees who want to raise claims about some aspect of their employment.

The ruling reflected a years-long pattern at the Supreme Court of limiting class actions and favoring employer-favored arbitration over lawsuits in the courts, generally preferred by workers.

The Trump administration backed the businesses, reversing the position the Obama administration took in favor of employees.

The court's task was to reconcile federal laws that seemed to point in different directions. On the one hand, New Deal labor laws explicitly give workers the right to band together. On the other, the older Federal Arbitration Act encourages the use of arbitration, instead of the courts.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the majority, said the contracts are valid under the arbitration law. "As a matter of policy these questions are surely debatable. But as a matter of law the answer is clear," Gorsuch wrote.

Monday's ruling is in line with earlier decisions, he said. "In many cases over many years, this court has heard and rejected efforts to conjure conflicts between the Arbitration Act and other federal statutes. In fact, this court has rejected every such effort to date (save one temporary exception since overruled)," Gorsuch wrote.

In dissent for the court's liberals, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called the decision "egregiously wrong" and likely to lead to "huge underenforcement of federal and state stautes designed to advance the well-being of vulnerable workers." Ginsburg said that the individual complaints can be very small in dollar terms, "scarcely of a size warranting the expense of seeking redress alone."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,013.29	2,733.01	7,394.04
+298.20	+20.04	+39.70
+1.21%	+0.74%	+0.54%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3178	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8493	Russian Ruble	61.5765
British Pound	0.7450	Indian Rupee	68.1752	Singapore Dollar	1.3404
Canadian Dollar	1.2777	Japanese Yen	111.1270	South Korean Won	1055.98
Chinese Yuan	6.2809	Malaysian Ringgit	3.9299	Swiss Franc	0.9980
Euro	0.8501	New Zealand Dollar	1.4375	Taiwan Dollar	29.4277
		Philippine Peso	51.2992	Thailand Baht	32.0625

E-Land honors student clubs in 2nd EYA

E-Land—the parent company of Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel, and the Pacific Islands Club—teamed up with local schools to conserve the environment, beautify the island, and maintain Saipan's environmental legacy.

Since E-Land lanched EYA four months ago, almost 400 students from nine schools on Saipan have been taking responsibility in environmental conservation while in the process gaining ecological knowledge.

E-Land, last November, introduced EYA as another round of its various community outreach programs. EYA aims for the environmental sustainability of the island through youth capacity building.

The South Korean-based company has been giving financial and other resources to help facilitate each school club's eco-friendly activities. The various clubs have implemented various projects that promote environmental awareness.

Beach cleanup, creating a garden in their schools, tree planting, trail repairs, and coral watch were some of the various environmental projects each school club had started in their respective areas.

The student clubs are helping pave the way for a greener island that future generations could enjoy and benefit from.

Roy Adsit, a science teacher and adviser of Saipan Southern High School's Youth Environmental Ambassadors Club, helped the students trim the trail so trekkers would be safe and decrease the amount of damage that would have affected the environment.

Adsit said that trekkers should use the trail they made and avoid making their own path so they could arrive at the end safely. He is sending a valuable message on how humans and nature can coexist.

SSHS' YEA Club also joined the International Coral Watch initiative, investigating the status of Saipan's coastal health.

Mt. Carmel School had moved forward with its garden project, thanks to E-Land's sponsorship. They used the funds to buy the tools and equipment in revitalizing their garden.

The students utilized various recycled materials and added their own ideas into the project. Their artistic side also came out as they designed the fence that they built out of wooden pallets around their school garden

MCS' students also did not hesitate in getting dirty every time they hold their once-a-month beach cleanups around Sugar Dock to keep Saipan's shores free of trash.

Their club had also organized a flyer design contest to teach the youth to be committed to raising environmental awareness. The contest is also encouraging students to be responsible in keeping the community clean.

MCS had been empowered and driven in having their own initiative under the inspiring leadership of Theresa Zheng.

Kagman High School's Environmental Warriors and their advisers had been going to different seasides to collect pieces of broken glasses that are not only harmful to the ocean but are also hazardous to people.

The club also came up with an idea to turn the broken glass pieces into art projects for their school. This is not the first time that KHS students became creative with recycled materials as they also joined the Parade of Floats and a costume show last December.

Marianas High School's Conservation Committee, under adviser Mayolina Garcia, started a garden in their campus.

Hopwood Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, and Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School are also progressing with their own gardening projects. Researches indicate that school gardening experience teaches educational values to the youth.

Tending a school garden allows the students to understand the ecosystem better as well as building useful life skills from planting and sowing the seeds to watering the plants.

Koblerville Elementary School also has been one of E-Land's key partners since the program started in 2016. KES teacher Francis Mendiola had been bringing his students to the beaches to help keep the shores free of litter.

Mendiola knows how to incorporate fun into educational lessons. Last February, the club invited a group of short-term exchange students from Korea to join their beach cleanup so that they could learn the importance of preserving the ocean and appreciate the gifts it gives.

William S. Reyes Elementary School's STUCO gave a presentation on saving energy during one of their PTSA sessions. The fourth to sixth graders conducted their research, organized the information on their own, and delivered their thoughts to audience that consists of parents, teachers, and their classmates. Now the club is focusing on building a school garden in their campus.

Lindasy Ahn, E-Land's corporate social responsibility facilitator, said that people had been paying attention on what the school children have been doing when she joined one of the beach cleanups.

"I believe that the students' active engagement like these would positively inspire the whole community," said Ahn.

MHS CAP-C students' school gardening.

Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School students during their beach cleanup.

Saipan Southern High School students after trail repair.

MCS' garden fence

MCS Eco Club Garden decorated with recycled materials.

WSR Elementary School Students having a presentation at PTSA.

Kagman Elementary School's garden.

Kagman High School students after their beach cleanup.

MCS' fun way to save the environment

Text & Photos By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School Environmental Club president Theresa Zheng made sure their group would have a creative and fun way in promoting environmental awareness when they joined the E-Land Environmental Youth Alliance.

Zheng told *Saipan Tribune* that with the guidance of their advisers—Luz Baldazo, John Blanco, and Toby Smith—they managed to come up with various projects that would be interesting to all students.

"We don't want to make environmental awareness an ordinary chore for our school. We thought of a way to make it fun for our students. We thought of projects that the students could love and also use their skills," Zheng told *Saipan Tribune*.

Two of MCS' Eco Club's schoolwide projects include giving an ice cream party to the winning class that collects the most number of plastic bottles and an art contest with the best entry being used as a promotional flyer for environmental awareness.

These two projects and beautifying the MCS garden, inviting educational speakers to discuss issues on environmental care, and monthly beach cleanups were enough for the club to win the 2nd EEYA top prize.

Toby Buenaflor, a fourth grader at MCS, won the artwork contest where he received gift certificates.

Zheng and some of their members received their Best Project award, winning a trophy, $1,000 worth of environmental development fund, and Pacific Islands Club waterpark passes last Friday at the Kensington Hotel's Queens Club.

"At first, when we started this, we don't know what it is that we're going to do. But we wanted the students to develop their leadership skills. We want them to lead the way and start something on their own," said Zheng.

Now that she's already a senior, Zheng wants to leave Saipan knowing that it would remain in good hands. "I am passionate with these kinds of activities. I want to protect the islands that I called home in the past 18 years. I want to have its resources protected," said Zheng.

The MCS garden started out bare. Now it has various plants and decorated with recycled materials like wooden pallets they collected from some of the stores on the island. Teachers and students collaborated in the beautification of their garden.

Educational speakers from the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services assisted them with their projects.

"BECQ and MINA educational speakers give presentations to our third and fourth graders on ocean and marine debris, and environmental awareness. NMC CREES helped us in our garden and taught us how to care about our plants," said Zheng.

Kagman High School's Environmental Warriors received the Earth Care award that included $500 worth of environmental development fund for the school and $500 worth of movie tickets to Regal Cinemas Saipan.

Their members and adviser Josie Kaipat had been cleaning up various beaches on Saipan and collecting broken glasses with the goal of making an artwork that they plan to sell in next year's Flame Tree Arts Festival.

"We collected over 100 lbs of broken glasses and that's only one beach at Pakpak Beach. So, we thought of a way on how to make use of what we collected. And we came up in turning it into an artwork," said Kaipat. "We are now looking for additional tools and materials, like plywood, so we could begin our recycled art project. Once we're done, we plan to sell it in next year's Flame Tree festival."

She added they are going to collect more broken glasses. "What we do is we first check the beaches for broken glasses. It is easy to spot them since the sun reflects on the material."

Saipan Southern High School won the Blue Planet award and the $500 worth of movie tickets that come with it, while the Better Future honors were given to Koblerville Elementary School and Kagman Elementary School where they went home with $300 each of environmental development fund and pool passes at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Participants of the second EEYA pose for a group photo.

Mt. Carmel School won the Best Project in the 2nd E-Land-Environmental Youth Alliance.

Koblerville Elementary School was one of the two recipients of the Better Future award.

A Koblerville Elementary School student, left, receives their certificate from E-Land Saipan president Matthew Park in last Friday's awards ceremony of the 2nd E-Land Environmental Youth Alliance at the Kensington Hotel's Queens Club.

Kagman High School receives the Earth Care award.

William S. Reyes Elementary School student Narhya Mersai, left, receives their certificate from E-Land Saipan president Matthew Park.

Kagman Elementary School is the other Better Future award winner.

Saipan Southern High School earns the Blue Planet honors.

Nation

Pastor: Depression preceded fatal crash into restaurant

BESSEMER CITY, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man accused of crashing a car into a restaurant table full of loved ones, killing two, had suffered for weeks with depression and previously asked his family to take his guns away, his pastor says.

Roger Self faces two counts of first-degree murder after authorities say he got into the sport utility vehicle during a family meal and then drove it at high speed into the restaurant on Sunday. The crash killed his daughter and daughter-in-law and critically injured two other relatives seated at the table near a window.

"His family and close friends have intensely labored to try and get Roger help. We all feel a level of guilt," said the Rev. Austin Rammell of Venture Church in Dallas, North Carolina.

The pastor, who is a close family friend, said Self opened up about his problems about 10 weeks ago, when he asked his son to take his guns away from him. Self has been treated for depression and anxiety that seemed to become more intense in the weeks since.

The crash sent stunned patrons scrambling Sunday afternoon at the Surf and Turf Lodge, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Charlotte.

Self was immediately arrested. Shackled and wearing an orange jumpsuit at a hearing Monday, he showed little emotion as he asked for a court-appointed attorney. He was ordered jailed without bond on two charges of first-degree murder.

AP

This frame grab from video provided by WSOC-TV 9 in Charlotte, N.C., shows an SUV driven by Roger Self being towed from the scene after Self intentionally rammed his vehicle into a restaurant busy with a lunchtime crowd, Sunday, May 20, 2018, killing his daughter and another person and injuring several others, in Bessemer City, N.C., according to authorities.

Self's daughter, Katelyn Self, a deputy with the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, and his daughter-in-law, Amanda Self, an emergency room nurse, were killed when the car rammed into the restaurant. Amanda Self was married to Roger Self's son, Gaston County Police Officer Josh Self.

Josh Self and Roger Self's wife, Diane, were in critical but stable condition Monday, said Rammell, who has been in close contact with the family. A 13-year-old granddaughter of Self's was treated and released from the hospital, police said.

At a news conference Monday, officials with the Bessemer Police Department declined to elaborate on Self's mental health. But police spokesman Rob Tufano said evidence gathered so far shows the crash was intentional.

"It is abundantly clear that this was not an accident; that this was something Mr. Self had intentionally done," Tufano said.

Katelyn Self had arranged Sunday's after-church lunch, inviting her fiance and his parents as well, because she was hoping that her father would feel better if he were surrounded by family, Rammell said. They had ordered drinks and appetizers and were talking and laughing after being seated at a table near the window.

The pastor said the family wasn't initially concerned when he got up, figuring he may have been suffering from anxiety.

"They began noticing his car out in the parking lot had circled. And the next thing you know he came through the window," Rammell said.

The pastor said Self had seen a psychiatrist and family doctor but hadn't been hospitalized. Rammell said Self told him he was taking medicine for depression and anxiety, but he was becoming particularly unstable over the weekend.

Katelyn Self, 26, was a four-year veteran of the Gaston County Sheriff's Office, the sheriff said in a news release. She had worked as a corporal in the jail and was off duty when she was fatally injured.

Roger Self, a former law enforcement officer, ran a private investigations business called Southeastern Loss Management, mostly working for companies to investigate employees' wrongdoing. Rammell said the business had been going through an unspecified "transition" that required the help of some friends, but he didn't elaborate.

Rammell, whose church is listed in a directory of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Self had been active for decades in a Baptist congregation that grew into Venture Church. He said Self had served as a volunteer youth minister to hundreds of people.

School shooting may not bring change to gun-loving Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas has more than 1.2 million licensed handgun owners who can openly carry their weapons in public. The state hosted the National Rifle Association's annual meeting two weeks ago. And until Monday, the governor's re-election website was raffling off a shotgun.

Guns are so hard-wired into Texas culture that last week's deadly rampage at Santa Fe High School is considered unlikely to result in any significant restrictions on access to weapons in the Lone Star State.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott reacted to the killings of eight students and two teachers by calling for a series of roundtable discussions on school safety, starting Tuesday in Austin. He said last week that he wants to find ways to keep guns away from those who pose an "immediate danger to others."

But the state's 20-year dominance by the Republican Party all but guarantees the meetings will be dominated by calls to boost school security and "harden" campuses—an idea backed by the NRA—instead of demands for gun restrictions, said Cal Jillson, political science professor at Southern Methodist University.

That's in sharp contrast to the response to the Feb. 14 shooting rampage at a high school in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 dead. Three weeks after the bloodbath, Florida politicians defied the NRA and passed a gun control package after a lobbying campaign led by student survivors of the attack.

A sheriff says officers were able to "engage" the shooter at a Texas school in 4 minutes after they were called to the scene. Galveston County Sheriff Henry Trochesset says that allowed the rest of Santa Fe High School to be evacuated safely. (May 21)

"The difference in Texas is the Republican Party is in complete control. It is unchallenged at the state level," Jillson said. "Even the young people from Santa Fe are not full-throated advocates of gun control to keep the children safe."

In fact, at a church service Sunday, Santa Fe High student Monica Bracknell, who survived the shooting, told the governor the attack should not be turned into a battle over gun control.

"People are making this into a political issue," she said. "This is not a political issue. It's not a gun-law issue."

Similarly, Callie Wylie, a 16-year-old Santa Fe High student who dropped off flowers Monday at a memorial for the shooting victims, said the violence is not a "gun problem."

"Obviously things need to change. Something needs to happen. This has happened way too much," Wylie said. "But I don't think at this time people need to be pushing politics on us and telling us, 'Oh, this is gun control.'"

Sentiments like those could give Abbott political cover if his roundtable discussions don't lead to major changes.

Dimitrios Pagourtzis, 17, is jailed on murder charges in Friday's attack. Authorities said the Santa Fe High student opened fire with his father's shotgun and .38-caliber handgun.

Can the 'dealmaker' president deliver on North Korea?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Weeks before his planned North Korea summit, President Donald Trump is staring down a dealmaker's worst nightmare: overpromising and under-delivering.

As the Singapore meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un draws near, the president and his allies are growing increasingly anxious about how he can score a win on the world stage. While Trump has not suggested he wants to back out, he has struggled to define his objectives for the historic sit-down and last week he drew fresh criticism from his foreign foil.

"I think that Trump imagined he would go into this meeting and be able to have a historic breakthrough with a deal, but it's clear he's starting to realize it won't be as easy as he imagined," said Jean Lee, director of the North Korea program at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a former Associated Press bureau chief in Pyongyang.

Trump, who has pitched himself as the ultimate negotiator, has focused on ambitious deals as president but has struggled with the fine print. He just hit the pause button on his threatened trade war with China, announcing an agreement to reduce America's trade deficit with China—but few details. He recently withdrew the U.S. from the international Iran-nuclear deal—without outlining a path forward with his allies. And his Middle East peace plan, which he deputized his son-in-law to lead, is months overdue and facing a more skeptical audience than ever.

Supporters stress that sometimes Trump's ambitious efforts do pay off, as with the massive tax cut bill he signed into law late last year.

Going into the North Korea meeting, senior administration officials say, the president has been almost singularly focused on the pageantry of the summit —including the suspenseful roll-out of details. He has not been deeply engaged in briefing materials on North Korea's nuclear program, said three people with knowledge of the White House efforts. They were not authorized to speak publicly.

Scott Snyder, director of the Program on U.S.-Korea Policy at the Council of Foreign Relations, said there's a risk that "the ceremony and the historic nature of the meeting be allowed to overshadow the deliverables."

Driven by gut instinct, Trump rarely dives deep as he prepares to meet with foreign counterparts. For the North Korea meeting, insiders say, he is motivated by the idea of scoring a historic deal and is tickled by suggestions he could win a Nobel Peace Prize—especially since Barack Obama won the honor early in his presidency. Trump has maintained publicly that his goal is to see the Korean Peninsula denuclearized, and the North has agreed to put its nuclear program on the negotiating table as a condition for the talks. But the two sides are still miles apart on defining what might be mutually acceptable.

Asia

Former Malaysian PM Najib questioned by anti-graft agency

AP

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, center, arrives at Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Office in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Najib Razak has been summoned for questioning in a money-laundering probe involving the 1MDB state investment fund.

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was being questioned Tuesday by anti-corruption police about a graft scandal that could lead to criminal charges against him.

He was summoned nearly two weeks after the defeat of his long-ruling coalition in national elections, a loss partly due to public anger over alleged corruption at the 1MDB state investment fund that Najib set up. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered $4.5 billion from the fund, some of which landed in Najib's bank account.

Swarmed by reporters, Najib looked calm and smiled as he was escorted into the agency's building.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing since the scandal erupted in 2015. He sacked critics in his government, including a deputy prime minister and the attorney-general, and muzzled the media to try to survive the fallout.

Najib and his wife have been barred from leaving the country after the new government reopened an investigation into the case. Police have raided his home and other properties linked to him, seizing hundreds of expensive designer handbags and luggage stuffed with cash, jewelry and other valuables.

A government official has said Najib could possibly be detained after giving his statement to Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Commission. Abdul Kadir Jasin, a spokesman for a new government advisory council, said over the weekend that an investigation had already been conducted but was suppressed by Najib while he was in power.

Najib's questioning at the anti-graft agency was specifically over why 42 million ringgit ($10.6 million) was transferred into his bank account from SRC International, a unit of 1MDB, using multiple intermediary companies.

The money was in addition to about $700 million that U.S. investigators said ended in Najib's bank account.

A new attorney general in 2016 cleared Najib of wrongdoing, saying a particular transfer of $681 million was a political donation from the Saudi royal family and that most of it was returned.

But new Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said investigations showed the wrongdoing at 1MDB were more serious than expected.

Mahathir said former attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail had told him he was preparing to press charges against Najib when he was abruptly sacked in 2015.

Mahathir, who was premier for 22 years until 2003 and was spurred out of retirement by the 1MDB scandal, has vowed there will be "no deal" for Najib and he will face the consequences if found guilty of wrongdoing.

The current attorney general has been put on leave and Abdul Gani was appointed as a member of a new task force investigating the state fund.

The U.S. Justice Department said in a statement that it looks forward to working with Malaysian law enforcement in investigating the 1MDB case.

"The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring that the United States and its financial system are not threatened by corrupt individuals and kleptocrats who seek to hide their ill-gotten wealth," it said. "Whenever possible, recovered assets will be used to benefit the people harmed by these acts of corruption and abuse of office."

ASIAN BRIEFS

14 police killed in Taliban attacks in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says at least 14 police officers have been killed after Taliban attacked several districts in eastern Ghazni province. Provincial council member Hassan Reza Yusoufi says the seven killed in Dih Yak district included the police chief and a reserve police commander. Another seven were killed in Jaghatu district. He said the attacks started Monday night and were continuing Tuesday in Dih Yak, Jaghatu, Ajristan and Qarabagh districts. Latifa Akbari, the head of provincial council in Ghazni, confirmed that Taliban stormed several checkpoints in Dih Yak and Jaghatu and there are more than 20 casualties among security forces. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attacks. Mujahid claimed the Jaghatu district headquarters was captured as well as police checkpoints in Dih Yak.

Indonesia raises alert for Merapi volcano, sets no-go zone

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities raised the alert for the volatile Mount Merapi volcano on the densely populated island of Java and ordered people within 3 kilometers (2 miles) to evacuate. Merapi has erupted four times since Monday, sending out a 3,500 meter (11,483 feet) column of volcanic material and dusting the surrounding region in ash. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the national disaster mitigation agency's spokesman, said some 660 people living within the exclusion zone have evacuated since early Tuesday. Indonesia's geological agency raised Merapi's alert from normal to "beware," because of its increased activity. There have been no reports of casualties and operations at Adi Sucipto airport in Yogyakarta have not been affected. The 2,968-meter (9,737-foot) mountain is about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Yogyakarta city center. About a quarter million people live within a 10 kilometer radius of the volcano, according to figures from authorities in surrounding districts. Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people and caused the evacuation of 20,000 villagers.

Moon enters talks with Trump with driver's seat at stake

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—For a few months, everything seemed to be clicking for South Korean President Moon Jae-in as he pieced together crucial nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea following a year of intense animosity.

But he now enters a White House meeting with President Donald Trump with his status in the diplomatic driver's seat in doubt.

Pyongyang's surprise move last week to break off a high-level meeting with Seoul over U.S.-South Korean military drills while threatening to cancel next month's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Trump cooled what had been an unusual flurry of diplomatic moves from the country after a provocative series of nuclear and missile tests.

It also underscored Seoul's delicate role as an intermediary between Washington and Pyongyang and raised questions about Moon's claim that Kim has genuine intent to deal away his nukes.

Seoul may lose much of its voice if Trump chooses to deal more directly with China, North Korea's only major ally, which is refusing to be sidelined in the global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff.

Seoul's presidential office said this week's meeting between Moon and Trump will be mainly focused on preparing Trump for his summit with Kim, scheduled for June 12 in Singapore.

A look ahead at the Moon-Trump meeting and the challenges they face with Kim:

WHITE HOUSE TO SINGAPORE

Seoul insists Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way in exchange for credible security and economic guarantees.

Moon and Trump will likely discuss potential steps that Trump can put on the table in Singapore. Their meeting at the White House may also include discussions on setting up three-way talks with Pyongyang or four-way talks also including Beijing to negotiate a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Moon and Trump may exchange views on whether the allies should temporarily modify their joint military drills while engaging in denuclearization negotiations with North Korea, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University and a policy adviser to Moon. There could also be deeper discussions on the future of the U.S.-South Korea alliance.

South Korea maintains an optimistic outlook for the Trump-Kim talks. Moon's foreign minister, Kang Kyung-wha, told South Korean lawmakers last week that the North has issued a commitment for "complete denuclearization." However, she said there's a "difference in opinions between the North and the United States over the methods to achieve denuclearization."

Officials in Washington have talked about a comprehensive one-shot deal where the North fully eliminates its nukes first and receives rewards later. But Kim, through two separate summits with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in March and May, has called for a phased and synchronized process where every action he takes is met with a reciprocal reward from the United States.

THE DREADED 'D' WORD

Despite Seoul's reassurances, it remains unclear whether Kim will ever agree to fully relinquish his nukes, which he likely sees as his only guarantee of survival. For decades, North Korea has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

Kim declared his nuclear force as complete in November, following the country's third flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. At a ruling party meeting in April, the North announced that it was suspending all nuclear and ICBM tests and will close its nuclear testing ground because its mission had come "to an end."

The announcements were clearly designed to communicate that Kim sees himself as entering the negotiations with Trump from a position of strength and expects to be treated as a leader of a full-fledged nuclear state.

World

Syrian govt declares capital fully under its control

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's military on Monday captured an enclave in southern Damascus from Islamic State militants following a ruinous monthlong battle, bringing the entire capital and its far-flung suburbs under full government control for the first time since the civil war began in 2011.

The gains freed President Bashar Assad's forces to move with allied militiamen on remaining rebel-held territory in the south near the border with Israel, as Syria's chief ally Iran comes under growing pressure from the Trump administration to withdraw its troops from the country.

Iranian-backed militias, including the Lebanese group Hezbollah, have been instrumental in helping Assad's over-stretched forces recapture huge areas around Damascus and in the country's center and north, building a military presence that has alarmed Israel and its U.S. ally, which is now looking to constrain Iran's activities.

Iranian officials have vowed to stay on in Syria for as long as needed, setting the stage for a potential confrontation as Washington seeks to tighten the screws on Tehran following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal brokered with Iran under President Barack Obama and world powers.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened Iran with the "strongest sanctions in history" if Tehran doesn't change course. In his first major foreign policy speech since taking the post as the top U.S. diplomat, he issued a list of demands that he said should be included in any new nuclear treaty with Iran, including that it "withdraw all forces" from Syria, halt support for Hezbollah and stop threatening Israel.

Iran and Russia have joined forces in Syria, providing crucial military support to Assad's forces and giving them the upper hand in the civil war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told Assad at a meeting last week that a political settlement in Syria should encourage foreign countries to withdraw their troops from Syria. Putin's envoy to Syria, Alexander Lavrentyev, said Putin was referring to Iranian forces, among others.

Iran says it is in Syria at the behest of the Assad government and says it is fighting "terrorism" in the form of Islamic extremists, including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told reporters that no one can force Tehran to do anything it doesn't want to do.

"Our presence in Syria has been based on a request by the Syrian government and Iran will continue its support as long as the Syrian government wants," he said, speaking shortly before Pompeo made his remarks.

The recapture of IS-held pockets in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk and the nearby Hajar al-Aswad district in southern Damascus came after a massive bombing campaign that has all but decimated what was left of the residential area on the edge of the capital, once home to about 200,000 Palestinian refugees.

The camp has been deserted by most of its inhabitants following years of siege, and the few remaining residents fled to nearby areas in the last days of the bombardment.

The last push on the Yarmouk camp came after a group of civilians was evacuated overnight. State TV showed images of troops moving in, waving the Syrian flag and flashing victory signs atop wrecked buildings in the destroyed neighborhood. Some fired in the air in celebration.

The move boosts morale and security in Assad's seat of power, putting it out of range of insurgents' mortar fire and shells for the first time in nearly seven years.

AP

In this photo released Tuesday, May 15, 2018 by the Syrian official news agency, SANA, Syrian government policemen, hold their national flag, after they enter a village in the northern countryside of Homs province, Syria.

UN chief urges Lebanon's Hezbollah to halt military action

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly criticized Hezbollah for operating as the most heavily armed militia and a political party in Lebanon and urged the militant group to halt military activities inside and outside the country, including in Syria.

In a report to the Security Council obtained Monday by The Associated Press, Guterres also called on Lebanon's government and armed forces "to take all measures necessary to prohibit Hezbollah and other armed groups from acquiring weapons and building paramilitary capacity" outside the authority of the state.

He said Hezbollah's military activity violates a 2004 Security Council resolution ordering all Lebanese militias to disarm and the Taif Accords that ended the country's 1975-90 civil war. In the semi-annual report on implementation of the 2004 resolution, the secretary-general said Hezbollah's engagement in the Syrian conflict also violates Lebanon's official policy of "disassociation," or neutrality in regional affairs.

Guterres said the report demonstrates Hezbollah's failure to disarm and "its refusal to be accountable" to state institutions that the U.N. resolution sought to strengthen.

"In a democratic state, it remains a fundamental anomaly that a political party maintains a militia that has no accountability to the democratic, governmental institutions of the state but has the power to take that state to war," he said.

Israel and Lebanon have been in a state of war for decades and do not have diplomatic relations. In the summer of 2006, Israel and Hezbollah militants fought a monthlong war.

The border with Israel has remained mostly quiet since then, but Guterres said an alleged increase in Hezbollah's arsenal poses "a serious challenge" to the Lebanese government's ability to exercise authority and sovereignty over the entire country.

"I call upon countries in the region that maintain close ties with Hezbollah to encourage the transformation of the armed group into a solely civilian political party, and its disarmament," Guterres said.

He did not name Iran, a strong supporter of Hezbollah in Syria and elsewhere. Both are strong supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government.

Guterres said Hezbollah's military arsenal and involvement in Syria continue "to be denounced by a number of voices in Lebanon, who consider those issues to be destabilizing factors in the country and ones that undermine democracy."

In addition, he said, "many Lebanese see the continued presence of such arms as an implicit threat that those could be used within Lebanon for political reasons."

Hezbollah is considered a terrorist group by the United States, but its political wing has long held seats in Lebanon's parliament and was part of Lebanon's outgoing coalition government.

Parliamentary elections earlier this month were the first in Lebanon since war broke out in Syria in 2011 and Hezbollah made major gains. Its leader, Hassab Nasrallah declared "mission accomplished."

Nonetheless, Lebanese analysts say the next Cabinet, like the outgoing one, will likely be a unity government that includes Hezbollah.

LGBT community cheers pope's 'God made you like this' remark

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis' reported comments to a gay man that "God made you like this" have been embraced by the LGBT community as another sign of Francis' desire to make gay people feel welcomed and loved in the Catholic Church.

Juan Carlos Cruz, the main whistleblower in Chile's clerical sex abuse and cover-up scandal, said Monday he spoke to Francis about his homosexuality during their recent meetings at the Vatican. The pope invited Cruz and other victims of a Chilean predator priest to discuss their cases last month.

Cruz said he told Francis how Chile's bishops used his sexual orientation as a weapon to try to discredit him, and of the pain the personal attacks had caused him.

"He said, 'Look Juan Carlos, the pope loves you this way. God made you like this and he loves you,'" Cruz told The Associated Press.

The Vatican declined to confirm or deny the remarks in keeping with its policy not to comment on the pope's private conversations. The comments first were reported by Spain's El Pais newspaper.

Church teaching says gays should be respected, loved and not discriminated against, but considers homosexual activity "intrinsically disordered." Francis, though, has sought to make the church more welcoming to gays, most famously with his 2013 comment "Who am I to judge?"

He also has spoken of his own ministry to gay and transgender people, insisting they are children of God, loved by God and deserving of accompaniment by the church.

As a result, some commentators downplayed the significance of the comments to Cruz, saying they merely were in line with Francis' pastoral-minded attitude and not in any way a challenge to current doctrine.

"What the pope was saying is, 'God loves you and made you just as you are, and therefore you should accept yourself as you are while struggling to live according to the Gospel,'" said the Rev. Robert Gahl, a moral theologian at Rome's Pontifical Holy Cross University.

Whether or not the pope intended to break ground, there was a time when the Catholic Church taught that sexual orientation was not something people choose.

Good Housekeeping

How to stock your kitchen for quick shrimp dinners

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

I'm still learning kitchen tips from my 87-year-old mother. Rather than rely on pricey delivered meal kits, she stocks a modest supply of essentials suitable for fast weeknight dinners and impromptu guests. Frozen shrimp, purchased on sale, is a standard. Same for a few key frozen vegetables, fast-cooking pasta, canned tomatoes and refrigerated chopped herbs. The spice drawer contains a modest variety of herbs and spices; olive oil, onions and garlic are always on hand.

So when we did her weekly shopping, I tucked a couple of bags of frozen raw shrimp into my own cart. When I'm organized, the shrimp thaw in the fridge while I'm at work. Otherwise, the sealed bag sits in the sink to thaw while I prep the rest of the meal.

When purchasing shrimp, I prefer to buy them frozen rather than "thawed for my convenience." That way, I can handle them properly until they go into the pan. Read signs and labels, and shop at stores that care about sustainability of the oceans and preserving fish populations. If the shrimp is really inexpensive, be wary. I avoid most imported shrimp — especially if I can't tell if it was raised with sustainable methods. Instead, I look for shrimp farmed in the U.S. and sold at stores that care about such things, such as Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

Once thawed, a hot pan and a splash of oil transform large shrimp into a crispy, spicy treat to eat out of hand or pile on toasted bread. Or, simmer shelled shrimp in a zesty tomato sauce, and serve over couscous.

All the ingredients for the Moroccan spiced shrimp tomato sauce, canned tomatoes, bottled roasted peppers, chicken broth, can be procured in advance. Saffron, while expensive, elevates the tomato sauce into something truly special, and a little goes a long way. Use fresh spinach or baby kale when it's on hand. Otherwise, frozen cut spinach, thawed and pressed to extract some of the water, works well here.

I like to keep a supply of cut and lightly dried herbs, sold in little plastic pots in the produce aisle, in the fridge. They taste fresher and brighter than dried herbs. Alternatively, when the garden is producing herbs, fresh chives and parsley can be sliced into small pieces and patted very dry before packing into small containers. They'll keep several days in the fridge or weeks in the freezer; use frozen.

Other ingredients to stock for meal-planning ease include frozen vegetables. But I'm selective. I prefer to purchase frozen long-cooking or difficult-to-prep varieties, such as winter squash, pearl onions, and shelled peas and edamame, but not the quick-cooking, low-prep veggies, such as asparagus or broccoli florets. Those I always cook from fresh.

Always be prepared. A motto my mom follows, with many a dinner guest the lucky recipient.

PAN-ROASTED SHRIMP WITH MINT-CHILE BUTTER

Prep: 15 minutes
Cook: 10 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

For best results, allow frozen shrimp to thaw completely in the refrigerator and pat them very dry before tossing in the cornstarch. Serve the shrimp with plenty of bread to soak up the butter. Or pile them over cooked rice, or pile onto grilled bread, top with shredded cheese and broil to melt the cheese a bit for an open-face treat. There will be leftover butter; spread it on bread, or stir it into mashed sweet potatoes.

Mint-chile butter:

2 green onions, finely chopped

2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint leaves

1 small clove garlic, finely chopped

1/2 medium jalapeno pepper, stemmed, halved lengthwise, seeded, finely chopped, 1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, at room temperature

Shrimp:

3 tablespoons cornstarch

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon sugar

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 pounds jumbo shrimp (16 to 20 count per pound), peeled leaving the last part of tail intact, deveined

3 tablespoons expeller-pressed canola oil, safflower oil or sunflower oil

Thick slices toasted sourdough or country-style bread

1. For the butter, mix onions, mint, garlic, jalapeno and salt in a small bowl. Add butter and mix well. Use at room temperature.

2. For the shrimp, mix cornstarch, salt, sugar and black pepper in a large bowl.

3. Pat shrimp very dry with toweling. Add to cornstarch mixture, and toss to coat.

4. Turn on the exhaust fan. Heat a large, heavy-bottomed skillet, preferably cast-iron, over medium-high heat until hot (when a drop of water sizzles on contact). Add half of the oil and half of the shrimp. Cook, continuously moving shrimp around in the pan with metal tongs, until they turn pink, about 2 minutes. Immediately remove to a serving platter and dot the top with some of the mint-chile butter.

5. Repeat to cook remaining shrimp. Serve hot, sprinkled with more green onions. Pass napkins. Serve with toast to mop up the soft butter. (Refrigerate leftover butter up to a week or freeze for several weeks.)

Nutrition information per serving: 388 calories, 15 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 459 mg cholesterol, 6 g carbohydrates, 1 g sugar, 57 g protein, 649 mg sodium, 0 g fiber

MOROCCAN SPICED SHRIMP OVER COUSCOUS

Prep: 20 minutes
Cook: 15 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

Sauce:

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 small onion, diced

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained

1 roasted red bell pepper (from a jar), rinsed, diced

1 cup chicken broth

Pinch saffron threads or ground saffron or 1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric, optional

1/4 teaspoon each: ground cumin, crushed red pepper flakes

Salt, freshly ground black pepper to taste

Shrimp:

2 cups baby spinach or baby kale or half of an 8-ounce bag frozen cut organic spinach, thawed, drained, about 1 cup

1 pound large (31 to 40 count) raw shrimp, peeled, deveined

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Couscous with butternut and chives, recipe follows

1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. For the sauce, heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion; cook until slightly crisp but still tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Add garlic; cook, 30 seconds. Add tomatoes with their juice, bell pepper, broth, saffron, cumin and pepper flakes. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook until sauce is slightly reduced, about 4 minutes. Season with salt (about 1/2 teaspoon) and pepper. (Sauce can be made to this point up to several days in advance and refrigerated, covered. Rewarm before serving.)

2. For the shrimp, reheat sauce over medium-high heat to a simmer. Stir in spinach and heat through. Then stir in shrimp. Simmer, stirring often, until shrimp is cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in lemon juice.

3. Spoon shrimp mixture over couscous on a large platter. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Nutrition information per serving: 240 calories, 9 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 231 mg cholesterol, 8 g carbohydrates, 5 g sugar, 31 g protein, 918 mg sodium, 2 g fiber

BUTTERNUT AND CHIVES

Prep: 10 minutes
Cook: 5 minutes
Stand: 5 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

Use diced butternut or sweet potato, sold fresh, in the produce section for speedy weeknight cooking. Alternatively, frozen diced squash works, too; simply adjust the microwave timing a bit.

TNS

Couscous is tossed with diced butternut squash and fresh chives as a bed for Moroccan-spiced shrimp.

TNS

Shrimp are dusted with cornstarch before a quick spin in a hot skillet. The crispy crustaceans partner with a mint-chile butter.

COUSCOUS WITH

1 pouch (12 ounces) diced fresh butternut squash, about 2 generous cups

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 teaspoon salt

Pinch saffron threads or saffron powder, optional

1 box (10 ounces) plain couscous

3 tablespoons fruity olive oil

1/4 cup thinly sliced fresh chives or green onion tops

1. Put butternut squash and 2 tablespoons water into a microwave-safe bowl. Cover with plastic wrap vented at one corner. Microwave on high (100 percent power), stirring once or twice, for 4 minutes. Let stand. Drain.

2. Meanwhile, put broth, salt and saffron, if using, in a medium saucepan. Heat to a simmer. Reduce heat to low, stir in couscous and cover pan tightly. Remove from heat. Let stand until tender, about 5 minutes. Fluff couscous with a fork. Stir in olive oil, then fold in the butternut and chives. Serve hot.

Nutrition information per serving: 267 calories, 7 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 2 mg cholesterol, 42 g carbohydrates, 1 g sugar, 8 g protein, 441 mg sodium, 4 g fiber

Life & Style

Netflix says it has signed Barack and Michelle Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack and Michelle Obama are getting into the television business with Monday's announcement that they had signed a multi-year deal with Netflix.

The former president and first lady have formed their own production company, Higher Ground Productions, for the material. In announcing a deal that had been rumored since March, Netflix offered no specifics on what shows they would make.

Netflix said the Obamas would make "a diverse mix of content," potentially including scripted and unscripted series, documentaries or features.

"We hope to cultivate and curate the talented, inspiring, creative voices who are able to promote greater empathy and understanding between peoples, and help them share their stories with the wider world," Barack Obama said in Netflix's announcement.

The Obamas can be expected to participate in some of the programming on-screen, said a person familiar with the deal, not authorized to talk publicly about it, on condition of anonymity. The programming itself is not expected to be partisan in nature; a president who often derided the way things were covered on cable news won't be joining in.

The type of people that Obama—like other presidents—brought forward as guests at his State of the Union addresses would likely provide fodder for the kinds of stories they want to tell.

"Barack and I have always believed in the power of storytelling to inspire us, to make us think differently about the world around us, and to help us open our minds and hearts to others," Michelle Obama said.

No content from the deal is expected to be available until at least 2019, said the person familiar with the deal.

The former president appeared in January on David Letterman's Netflix talk show, "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction." Obama is said to be friendly with Ted Sarandos, Netflix chief content officer, and discussions for other programming were already under way.

"We are incredibly proud they have chosen to make Netflix the home for their formidable storytelling abilities," Sarandos said.

Netflix has 125 million subscribers worldwide. The company has always been reluctant to discuss how many people watch its programming, but it clearly dominates the growing market for streaming services. Roughly 10 percent of television viewing now is through these services, the Nielsen company said.

Miss Nebraska wins Miss USA competition

In this photo provided by The Miss Universe Organization, Sarah Rose Summers, Miss Nebraska USA 2018, is crowned Miss USA and congratulated by fellow contestants at the conclusion of the event, Monday, May 21, 2018, in Shreveport, La. AP

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Sarah Rose Summers from Nebraska beat out 50 other women Monday to win this year's Miss USA competition.

Summers, a 23-year-old contestant from Omaha, graduated from Texas Christian University with two degrees and is working on becoming a certified child life specialist.

She takes over from Kara McCullough, who won the competition last year when it was held in Las Vegas.

At the start of the two-hour broadcast, the field was immediately narrowed down to 15 contestants according to how they performed during preliminary rounds held in the days before Monday's broadcast.

Then the field was narrowed down during the evening gown, swimsuit and interview portions of the competition.

The final three contestants—Summers, Caelynn Miller-Keyes of North Carolina and Carolina Urrea of Nevada—were asked what they would write on a blank sign on the way to a hypothetical march. Miller-Keyes was 1st runner-up and Urrea the 2nd runner-up.

Summers said she would encourage people to "speak your voice" with her sign. Urrea vowed to work to eliminate homelessness. Miller-Keyes spoke about sexual assault prevention, saying she would march for "your body, your rights."

During her answer, Summers also drew one of the biggest cheers of the evening when she called on people to "listen to each other," saying that was something people in the U.S. needed to do.

The evening also touched on one of the year's biggest themes—the #MeToo movement that has focused attention on sexual harassment and sexual assault. In a video montage, the contestants talked about particular #MeToo moments they had experienced and women's empowerment.

Winners were chosen by a combination of a selection committee that contest organizers said included female entrepreneurs and executives and input from viewers who were able to vote online. The show was hosted by Vanessa and Nick Lachey.

At Cannes, a #MeToo upheaval up and down the Croisette

CANNES, France (AP)—Fifty years after filmmakers shut down the Cannes Film Festival, the prestigious Cote d'Azur extravaganza was again shook by upheaval.

From the start to the finish, the 71st Cannes was dominated by protest and petition for gender equality, culminating in the extraordinary sight at the festival's closing ceremony Saturday of Italian filmmaker and Harvey Weinstein accuser Asia Argento vowing justice for sexual predators in the film industry.

"You know who you are," Argento told the audience. "But more importantly, we know who you are. And we're not going to allow you to get away with it any longer."

Argento's excoriating speech had all the more effect because it was at Cannes 21 years ago that Weinstein raped her, she has said. Weinstein, for decades a ubiquitous fixture of the festival, has denied allegations of non-consensual sex. Declaring that Weinstein would never again set foot at the Cannes Film Festival —"his hunting ground," she said—Argento's speech was the final salvo in a festival bombarded by demands for change.

The festival wrapped Saturday after 12 turbulent days of soul-searching and cinema and was defined as much by who wasn't there as who was. Weinstein, of course, was absent. So too was Netflix, which pulled its films from Cannes after the festival ruled films must have theatrical distribution in France to compete in Cannes' main slate.

With a few notable exceptions like Spike Lee's Grand Prix-winning, rousingly received Ku Klux Klan drama "BlacKkKlansman," American films were also largely AWOL, a casualty partly of Hollywood's increasing focus on a fall-festival launching pad for Oscar hopefuls. Selfies were banned, as was, back in Kenya, the lesbian drama "Rafiki," the country's first film at Cannes.

Stars Bardot, Marceau lead fight to amend French food bill

PARIS (AP)—Actresses Brigitte Bardot and Sophie Marceau are leading campaigns for mandatory cameras in French slaughterhouses and a ban on the sale of eggs from caged hens as France's parliament prepares to debate a food industry bill Tuesday.

Thirteen animal rights associations have called on lawmakers to add the slaughterhouse and cage regulations to the legislation. In an open letter, they argued that both measures were campaign promises of French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Bardot Foundation released a video in which the former French film star, a longtime animal rights activist, expresses her "revolt at the way animals are slaughtered" and notes she hasn't eaten meat for 40 years.

In a separate video released Monday, former James Bond girl Sophie Marceau endorses the ban on eggs from caged hens. The video includes footage shot by animal rights activists that shows hens crammed into tiny cages with the carcasses of dead birds.

The government's bill strengthens the penalties for animal abuse. It would double the possible sentence to one year in prison and a fine of 15,000 euros ($17,600.)

In recent years, a string of undercover videos has revealed shocking slaughterhouse conditions in the country—showing various abuses of pigs, cows, sheep and hens.

Under former President Francois Hollande, the lower house of parliament approved a bill ordering cameras in slaughterhouses that would have been a first in Europe. The law-making process was abandoned when Macron took office last year.

Legislation making video cameras mandatory in slaughterhouses in England, but not the rest of the United Kingdom, took effect this month.

French Agriculture minister Stephane Travert, speaking Sunday on France Inter radio, said cameras wouldn't be helpful, asserting that it's not possible to determine based on the footage "whether yes or no the animal is actually suffering."

Travert also said he wants hen cages to progressively disappear rather than imposing a ban.

"I'm for a fair compromise and for negotiation," he said.

The French poultry sector is the largest in the European Union. More than two-thirds of eggs sold in France come from caged hens.

Report: Markle nephew warned over knife at London nightclub

LONDON (AP)—Meghan Markle's nephew was given a warning by police after trying to take a knife into a London nightclub, hours after the royal wedding, the Sun newspaper reported Monday.

The tabloid said 25-year-old Tyler Dooley, nephew of the now Duchess of Sussex, admitted having the knife at the Bacchus nightclub in the London suburb of Kingston early Sunday.

The Sun reported, citing an anonymous source, that Dooley told club staff he brought the knife from the U.S. because President Donald Trump had warned London wasn't safe.

Trump said this month that rising knife crime had left some London hospitals like a "war zone."

Police confirmed Monday that a club in Kingston called officers after a man in his 20s "openly declared he had a knife as he attempted to enter the club." The Metropolitan Police force said officers spoke to the man and another man in his 20s, and one of the pair also handed over a "noxious spray"—believed to be a pepper spray.

Neither man was arrested. British police don't name suspects who haven't been charged.

Dooley, who grows legal cannabis in Oregon, is the son of the duchess' estranged half-brother Thomas Markle, Jr.

Meghan's mother, Doria Ragland, was the only member of her family at her wedding Saturday to Prince Harry, after her father was unable to attend because of ill-health.

AP

Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle leave after their wedding ceremony, at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in Windsor, near London, England, Saturday, May 19, 2018.

Meghan offers insight into her new role

LONDON (AP)—Meghan Markle has offered a glimpse of how she sees her new role as the Duchess of Sussex in two new pages posted on the royal website hours after the former actress married Britain's Prince Harry.

The newly minted duchess' pages highlight her focus on social issues and notes that she campaigned successfully at age 11 to have a company change the sexist language it used to sell dishwashing soap. The "About the Duchess of Sussex" page also pointed out that she volunteered at a soup kitchen in Los Angeles' Skid Row and worked at another kitchen in Canada while working as an actress in Toronto.

"I am proud to be a woman and a feminist," the page quotes her as saying.

A second "biography" page mentions her education, first at the Hollywood Little Red Schoolhouse, Immaculate Heart High School and Northwestern University, where she earned a double major in theater and international relations.

It also discusses the seven years she spent playing Rachel Zane in the U.S. television drama "Suits."

"Whilst working on Suits, the duchess moved to Toronto, Canada where the show was filmed; she feels very connected to Canada, as it became a second home to her," the biography said.

Prince Harry and Markle were named the Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they were married Saturday at St. George's Chapel in Windsor.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

A watchdog group asks Netflix to pull '13 Reasons Why'

NEW YORK (AP)—A media watchdog group is calling on Netflix to pull its "13 Reasons Why" series because of potentially harmful content. The Parents Television Council describes the second season of the series as "a ticking time bomb to teens and children." It wants both seasons yanked. A request for comment from Netflix wasn't immediately returned Monday. The first season of "13 Reasons Why" included a graphic depiction of a teen's suicide. The second season includes a story line about a student's thwarted plans to shoot up a school dance. The conservative council claims 1.4 million members and is dedicated to curbing sex, violence and profanity on TV and in other media. In the past, it has opposed shows such as "Glee," "The Mick," "Scream Queens" and "The Real O'Neals."

Restaurant group negotiating to buy out Mario Batali

NEW YORK (AP)—The restaurant group co-owned by Mario Batali says it has been "actively negotiating" to buy out the celebrity chef facing sexual misconduct allegations. The B&B Hospitality Group says Batali and partner Joe Bastianich have signed a letter of intent and final terms could be set by July 1. The New York Police Department confirmed it's investigating Batali after a woman told "60 Minutes" that Batali drugged and sexually assaulted her in 2005. Batali denies assaulting the woman. B&B says it had been unaware of what it calls the "chilling" and "deeply disturbing" allegations. Batali stepped down from daily operations at his restaurant empire and cooking show in December after four women accused him of inappropriate touching. He's apologized for those encounters. Batali's representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Palace shares family portrait and other royal wedding photos

LONDON (AP)—Kensington Palace has released three official wedding photographs taken of Prince Harry and the former Meghan Markle shortly after their wedding. Alexi Lubomirski's images include a family portrait of the couple with Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles, Prince William and their spouses, as well as Markle's mother and the children who served as bridesmaids and page boys. A second image shows the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as they now are known, just with the children. The newlyweds also posed for a less formal black and white photo. The palace said Monday that the pair "feel so lucky to have been able to share their day with all those gathered in Windsor and also all those who watched the wedding on television across the U.K., Commonwealth, and around the world."

Nielsen says 29 million people watched wedding in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Perhaps getting married to a U.S. television star helps in the royal wedding ratings. The Nielsen company says 29.2 million people in the United States watched the wedding of Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle early Saturday. The London ceremony aired starting at 7 a.m. Eastern time and was carried live on 15 different networks. The telecast topped the 22.8 million people who watched Harry's older brother, Prince William, marry Kate Middleton in 2011. By a whisker, NBC earned network bragging rights. Nielsen said an estimated 6.42 million people watched NBC's coverage while 6.35 million watched it on ABC. The CBS audience was 4.79 million people.

Adult daughter living at home interrupts mom's private life

DEAR ABBY: I'm 54. My 28-year-old daughter, Sarah, lives with me. Our issue is MY sex life.

I have a long-term live-in boyfriend, and we enjoy each other in many ways. We try to be quiet while we're enjoying each other physically, but evidently we are not quiet enough. Sarah complains whenever we make any kind of noise that she even suspects might be sexual in nature. She has accused me of having sex when we were only talking.

It might seem reasonable to have sex only when Sarah isn't home, but she's home very often at night. Due to menopause, I have limited windows of time without pain that I even want sex. She's living with me to try to bank enough money to buy her own house, and I support that. Am I wrong to continue to enjoy relations with my boyfriend when my daughter is home?

FRUSTRATED MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: No, you are not wrong. You and your daughter are both adults. She's a guest in YOUR home. While most "children" are uncomfortable when confronted with the reality that their parents have sex lives, she should not be commenting on or regulating yours. If she can't adapt to that reality, she should live elsewhere. It may take her longer to afford her own house, but you will all be more comfortable.

DEAR ABBY: I have a lifelong friend who lives back in my old hometown. We've known each other since childhood. "Ivy" is a lovely woman who was dealt a very difficult hand in life. She was disabled in her 30s and raised four children alone after her husband took off. Things have always been tough for her financially. Because I've been in a better position, I try to help her when I can.

Four years ago, her eldest child died, and Ivy adopted her two grandsons. The boys are now in their teens and, thank goodness, they are loves and adore their grandma. But Ivy gets no support from the system or her family. I want to help more, but my finances are tenuous because I'm disabled, too.

She lives in a state that hasn't yet recovered from the recession, so there are few government resources available. We talk every week and she's almost always depressed. What can I say or do to help her?

FOREVER FRIEND IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRIEND: I am sure the emotional support you provide by giving her the chance to vent has— and will continue to be—very helpful. However, it's time your friend investigated what financial resources ARE in place for minors and disabled adults in her state because she may be pleasantly surprised. If she's unable to do that, you could go online and assist her in doing the research. Please consider it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: What does it mean when your ex-wife leaves a frozen pie at your door but doesn't even acknowledge your invitation to stop by and have a slice when it is cooked?

MIKE IN MONTANA

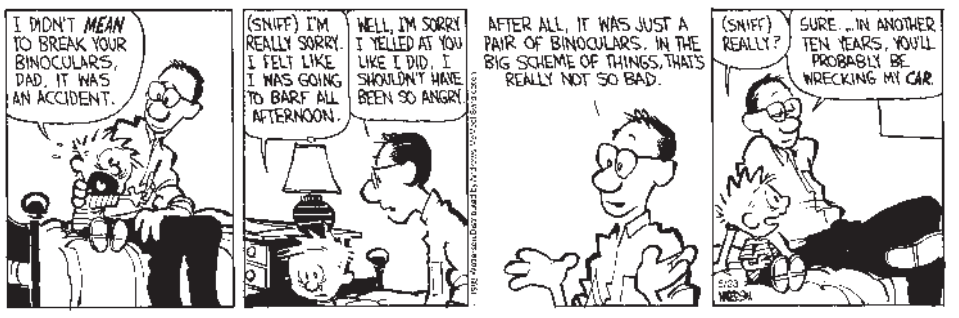
DEAR MIKE: Consider the symbolism in a pie that is frozen. It probably means she wanted you to know that she thought of you, but you're still out in the cold.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK YOUR BINOCULARS, DAD. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
(SNIFF) I'M REALLY SORRY. I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO BARF ALL AFTERNOON.
WELL, I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU LIKE I DID. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO ANGRY.
AFTER ALL, IT WAS JUST A PAIR OF BINOCULARS. IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS, THAT'S REALLY NOT SO BAD.
(SNIFF) REALLY?
SURE...IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE WRECKING MY CAR.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, A BOOK ABOUT A COFFEE BEAN'S JOURNEY?
YEAH.
"THE TALE OF LITTLE STEVIE THE COFFEE BEAN."
HE COULD LOOK LIKE THIS.
AND HE WANTS TO BE GROUND UP INTO COFFEE?
YEARNS FOR IT. IT'S LIKE A GROUND UP CATERPILLAR/BUTTERFLY THING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ANOTHER SEASON. I HOPE OUR TEAM DOESN'T EMBARRASS THEMSELVES AGAIN.
WELL, AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT REPEATING LAST YEAR'S MISTAKES SO FAR.
YEAH, GOOD TO SEE THEY FOUND THEIR WAY OUT OF THE DUGOUT THIS TIME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vinyl records
4 Try the tea
7 Gridlock sound
8 Exposes
10 Actress Zellweger
11 Turkish inn
13 Equitable
16 Press for payment
17 Island of Hawaii
18 Frank McCourt memoir
19 Rope fiber
20 Society newbies
21 Napper's noise
23 Gettysburg general
25 Store sign
26 Swedish auto
27 "Wham!"
28 Tennis great Chris
30 Boston team, for short
33 Rotary
36 Vain person
37 Dweebs
38 Designer Perry
39 Casual tops
40 NYPD investigator
41 Flamenco cheer

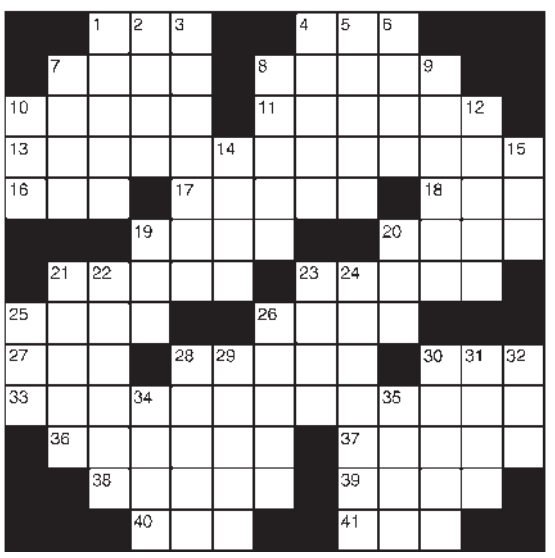
DOWN

1 Red Square figure
2 Equal
3 Orator
4 Gregor of Kafka's "The Metamorphosis"
5 Baghdad resident
6 Lima's land
7 Boyfriend
8 Raise a price at auction
9 Not standing
10 "Mayberry —"
12 Navajo or Hopi
14 Handle
15 Curvy letter
19 Sweetie
20 Apply cream
21 Fern-to-be
22 Like Enya's music
23 Artist Chagall
24 Corrode
25 Choose
26 Factions
28 Submit taxes online
29 Call on
30 Rocky debris
31 Early automaker
32 Ballot markings
34 Crease
35 Stagger

Solution time: 23 mins.

F	L	A	T	■	S	P	A	■	C	A	W	S
_	O	G	E	■	K	O	I	■	A	R	A	T
U	D	O	N	■	I	N	D	U	S	I	R	Y
B	I	G	O	■	R	Y	■	H	H	Y	M	E
■	■	■	R	O	I	■	C	U	I	■	■	■
P	P	■	S	M	■	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
A	O	K	■	■	B	O	B	■	■	O	U	R
R	E	E	N	■	R	Y	■	Y	A	W	N	S
■	■	■	I	W	O	■	_	O	P	■	■	■
S	A	U	N	A	■	P	O	U	_	T	R	Y
A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y	■	O	R	E	O
P	E	L	T	■	A	A	A	■	M	I	L	L
S	W	A	Y	■	O	Y	_	■	B	O	O	K

Yesterday's answer 5-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Monaco, 42; Jewel, 44; Drew Carey, 60; Joan Collins, 85.

Happy Birthday: Stick to the truth, and ask questions when in doubt. How you handle friends, relatives and peers will make a difference. Emotional deception is apparent, and the likelihood of someone trying to take advantage of you should be countered with intelligence, facts and being able to say no. Put your energy into personal gain, not helping someone else get ahead. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 28, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Participate in activities that will allow you to blow off steam. Exercise, physical work and assisting others will help you remain calm, even if others don't. Protect against illness or injury. Make diet and rest priorities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You've got the right idea, but not everyone will see things your way. Do your own thing and stick to a set budget. Common sense, intuition and hard work will help you reach your goal and come out on top. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take part in courses, conferences or challenges that will encourage you to grow stronger and to hone your skills. Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail to persuade you to do something you don't want to do. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't fear the unknown. Ask questions; you'll discover information that will help you make changes at home or work that will improve your life. Love and romance, along with paying personal attention to the way you look, will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Walk away from anyone trying to convince you to go into debt or to make changes that aren't reasonable. Problems with a partner or someone who expects too much from you should be dealt with abruptly. Put your needs first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set the standard instead of living by someone else's rules. Know what you want, and don't be afraid to speak up. Taking control of a situation at home or at work will lead to choices. If someone isn't good for you, distance yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Secrets will be kept that could change your opinion about something you've been asked to do. Don't trust anyone who is suspicious or trying to pressure you to head in one direction or another. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Doors will open, but before you engage in something that's being offered, get the lowdown regarding how much it will cost and who all is involved. You may want to take your ideas and move forward on your own. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Partnerships will be troublesome. Make sure you are straightforward about what you are willing to do and what you expect in return. Someone is likely to mislead you if you are too trusting or you let your emotions override practicality. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* The changes you make at home will be beneficial, and the response and help you receive from others will confirm you are doing the right thing. A makeover or updating your image will lead to compliments. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't stop or look back. As soon as you slow down, someone will make an unexpected move that will cost you. Arguments are a waste of time, and being extravagant will not make you feel better. Exercise is recommended. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Explore your options, and take part in organized endeavors that will lead to new friendships and opportunities. A partnership looks intriguing and is likely to lead to altering the way you live. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, intelligent and cooperative. You are expressive and passionate.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	1				6	3
	1					2		
7					3			
3					4			
5	2	4			1	3	9	
6			8		2			5
1			7		5			2
4			3		9			6
	3	5				4	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	1	2	4	6	8	3	9
6	4	3	5	9	8	1	2	7
2	8	9	1	7	3	6	5	4
8	9	2	6	3	4	5	7	1
3	5	7	8	1	2	4	9	6
1	6	4	7	5	9	2	8	3
9	2	6	4	8	7	3	1	5
7	1	8	3	6	5	9	4	2
4	3	5	9	2	1	7	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DOGS HAVE GOOD SENSES — Solution: 7 letters

P	P	V	E	R	E	K	S	R	O	D	S	T	E	P
R	I	O	R	T	C	L	I	V	I	S	U	A	L	O
E	T	L	O	I	S	O	G	G	F	I	N	D	L	L
C	C	U	L	L	N	A	H	A	S	E	N	S	E	I
E	H	M	P	K	F	V	T	M	E	U	T	R	M	C
P	O	E	X	C	C	A	E	E	O	B	O	A	S	E
T	U	Y	E	A	W	H	C	S	T	Ⓚ	U	E	W	D
O	N	E	N	L	A	A	G	T	T	I	Ⓒ	T	A	O
R	D	I	O	B	R	E	L	U	I	I	H	Ⓐ	P	G
S	N	B	E	E	N	W	A	D	O	O	G	W	Ⓟ	C
E	E	T	G	N	I	T	N	A	P	R	N	A	Z	D
N	I	A	R	T	O	I	D	E	T	E	C	T	T	E
O	T	R	A	I	L	B	P	O	I	N	T	E	R	E
C	K	R	A	B	E	S	O	N	U	Z	Z	L	E	R
S	N	I	F	F	I	N	G	N	I	R	A	E	H	B

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Bark, Beagle, Black, Blind, Bone, Breed, Canine, Care, Cones, Dawn, Detect, Ears, Explore, Eye, Find, Game, Gland, Hearing, Hertz, Hound, Investigate, Lick, Lobe, Nose, Nuzzle, Olfaction, Pack, Panting, Paws, Pets, Pitch, Pointer, Police Dog, Receptors, Rods, Rough, Sense, Sight, Smell, Sniffing, Sound, Taste, Touch, Trail, Train, Visual, Volume, Warn, White

Yesterday's Answer: Running

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) – Human Trafficking Outreach Specialist

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 05/09/18 — **Closing Date: 05/30/18**
JVA#18-003: **Procurement Officer**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Opening Date: 05/14/18 — **Closing Date: 05/30/18**
JVA#18-001: **Community Projects Coordinator I**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#18-002: **Media Marketing Specialist I**
Location: **Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan**

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance May 24th, 2018 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from April 19th, 2018
II. **Public Comments**
III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. Committees
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. **Old Business**
   1. NMTI Request for Reconsideration (Open Enrollment)
V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2018 Application Status
VI. **Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**
VII. **Misc.**
VIII. **Next Meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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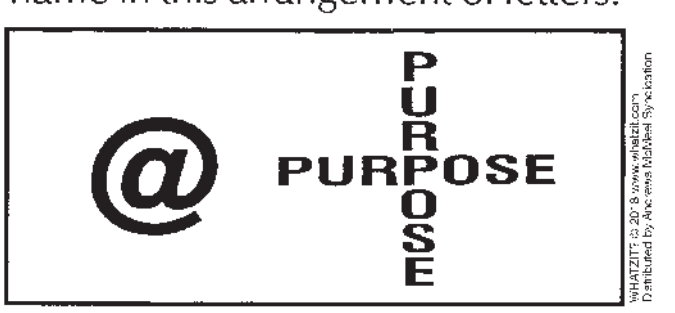

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Soto hits 3-run HR in first start, Nats top Padres

WASHINGTON (AP)— Juan Soto, the youngest player in the majors at 19, hit a three-run homer in his first career start as the Washington Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 10-2 on Monday night.

Mark Reynolds had two solo home runs for the Nationals, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Bryce Harper had a homer and an RBI double.

Soto's drive highlighted a five-run second inning. The promising outfielder, who played for three minor league teams this season, connected off Robbie Erlin (1-3). Soto also singled.

Soto's homer traveled an estimated 442 feet. He earned a standing ovation and responded by taking a curtain call. Per Baseball-Reference.com, Soto became the first teenager to hit a home run in a major league game since Harper on Sept. 30, 2012.

Gio Gonzalez (5-2) allowed two runs and two hits in seven innings.

AP
Washington Nationals' Juan Soto bats during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Monday, May 21, 2018, in Washington.

Yankees 10, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Gleyber Torres hit two of the four Yankees homers off Bartolo Colon and New York denied the Texas starter a milestone victory only three days before his 45th birthday.

Aaron Judge and Neil Walker also went deep against Colon. Judge's 12th homer, leading off the fifth, snapped a 4-all tie and put the Yankees ahead to stay. Aaron Hicks added a two-run shot in the ninth for New York, which had a season-high 10 extra-base hits. It was the third straight game the Yankees hit at least four homers, marking the first time in team history they've done that. The Rangers were the last team to accomplish that feat, in May 2011.

Colon (2-2) allowed six runs and eight hits over 5 1/3 innings in his 178th career loss. The portly right-hander remained one win short of matching Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marchial's 243 victories, the most by a player born in the Dominican Republic.

Phillies 3, Braves 0

In Philadelphia, Nick Pivetta struck out seven in seven innings, and Nick Williams and pinch-hitter Aaron Altherr each homered to lead Philadelphia over Atlanta.

The Phillies took the opener of the three-game series and moved within a half-game of the Braves for first place in the NL East.

Atlanta starter Mike Foltynewicz faced Pivetta for the fourth time already this season, and the right-handers delivered outings worthy of two teams fighting for first.

Rockies 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Carlos Gonzalez drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the eighth inning and Colorado edged Los Angeles to move into first place in the NL West.

German Marquez (3-5) pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and Gerardo Parra homered for the Rockies, who passed slumping Arizona for the top spot in the division.

Wade Davis worked the ninth for his major league-leading 17th save in 19 chances.

The loss snapped the Dodgers' four-game winning streak as they returned home after sweeping three games against the Nationals.

Los Angeles committed two errors in the eighth and another in the ninth in the first of 19 meetings with the Rockies this season.

Cardinals 6, Royals 0

In St. Louis, Miles Mikolas pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout, and Tyler O'Neill homered for the third straight game and drove in four runs to lead St. Louis over Kansas City.

Mikolas (6-0) threw 109 pitches and struck out a career-high nine. The Cardinals won for the third time in four games and beat the Royals for the fifth straight time.

O'Neill's three-run homer capped a four-run third inning in which the Cardinals strung together five two-out hits. O'Neill's double in the fifth scored Marcell Ozuna, who broke an 0-for-22 slump with an RBI single.

Matt Carpenter also homered as part of a three-hit night.

Mets 2, Marlins 0

In New York, Jason Vargas returned to the rotation with five excellent innings, AJ Ramos pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth and New York blanked Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Asdrubal Cabrera had an RBI double and pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores added a run-scoring single for the Mets.

The 35-year-old Vargas (1-3) had his previous turn skipped after three sloppy outings to open the season, but he shut down the Marlins with changeups and guile for his first win with the Mets. Ten of his outs came via the change, and he struck out seven without reaching 90 mph even once with his fastball. He allowed two hits and a walk before leaving after 86 pitches.

Brewers 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Milwaukee, Travis Shaw, Domingo Santana and Lorenzo Cain homered off Zack Greinke as Milwaukee defeated skidding Arizona.

Jake Lamb homered for the Diamondbacks, who have lost five in a row and 11 of 12— scoring just 24 runs in that span.

Greinke (3-3) struck out nine, walked none and gave up five hits in six innings, but the home runs did him in. He slipped to 1-4 at Miller Park after a 15-0 stretch while pitching for the Brewers from May 9, 2011 to June 6, 2012.

Chase Anderson (4-3) threw six strong innings in his return to the rotation. He'd been ill and on the 10-day disabled list. He allowed three hits in his first start since May 6.

Orioles 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Manny Machado, Adam Jones and Mark Trumbo homered, helping Andrew Cashner and Baltimore beat Chicago.

Machado hit his 15th homer, moving into a tie for the major league lead with Boston's Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez. Trumbo connected against Hector Santiago, and Jones went deep after leaving Sunday's 5-0 loss to the Red Sox due to an illness.

Cashner (2-5) got his first win since April 5, helped by some terrific relief work from Mychal Givens. Cashner pitched five-plus innings and was charged with two runs and eight hits.

The last-place Orioles (15-32) had dropped four of five heading into the four-game series between two of the AL's worst teams.

Twins 4, Tigers 2

In Minneapolis, Logan Morrison forced in the go-ahead run with a four-pitch walk in the eighth inning after striking out in his first three at-bats, propelling Minnesota past Detroit.

Jose Berrios (5-4) struck out nine, giving up just three hits and two walks over eight innings.

Fernando Rodney closed for his 10th save in 13 tries. Rodney, who spent the first eight seasons of his major league career with the Tigers, has converted eight straight saves in 10 consecutive scoreless innings.

The more relevant reunion was the return of Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire to Minnesota, where he managed the Twins for 13 seasons. This was the first game between the division rivals since Gardenhire was hired by Detroit.

Watson thinks Woods man to beat at The Open

FLORIDA (AP)—Tom Watson knows a thing or two about winning The Open and the five-time Champion Golfer believes Tiger Woods is the man to beat at Carnoustie this summer.

Woods' renaissance following two years of injury hell is arguably the sport's story of the season, with the American back up to speed far quicker than experts predicted following spinal fusion surgery.

A second-place finish at the Valspar Championship, backed up with fifth at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and tied 11th at The Players Championship has sped up talk that he could add to his 14 majors – something that seemed highly unlikely a year ago.

On the horizon is the 147th Open Championship at Carnoustie, a venue Woods has finished seventh and 12th in previous Opens in 1999 and 2007 respectively.

Known for its narrow fairways and strategic bunkering, the Angus links is among the toughest venues around but Watson insists Woods will win again—and on current form, that automatically makes him a serious contender to tame Carnoustie.

"I think he is back and one of the reasons I think he is back is because he is feeling pain-free. You can't play golf when in pain, bottom line," the eight-time major winner said.

"It is just going to affect the way you play, the way you score and the drive to keep going. Tiger was like that for several years and it seems now he is not. If you look at the results, he is there, he is close and he has a chance. He will win again, without a doubt, but whether it will be at Carnoustie I don't know—but he will win. "The critical factor [in winning a major] is chipping and putting," Watson added.

Woods is a three-time Champion Golfer of the Year but has not won at Carnoustie, with Ireland's Padraig Harrington claiming the Claret Jug when The Open was last played there in 2007.

The course's reputation is enough to make the world's best players shiver with Watson, a five-time Champion Golfer of the Year and Champion at Carnoustie in 1975, insisting only the elements can tame it.

"I don't think there is much danger of it being easier. The only danger is if there is no wind. In 1975, on the first three days we had almost no wind at all," he added. "There were a lot of low scores like 66 and 67, which was low then, and that was due to there being no wind. But then it kicked up in the final round and in the play-off it blew 180 degrees in the opposite direction. The teeth were bared and when you have the wind this course is as good as it gets."

LeBron's 44 help Cavs even series with Celtics

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James knows the path to the NBA Finals better than anyone in today's game.

And unless the Boston Celtics do something soon, he'll get there again.

James bullied his way to 44 points, surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar atop a postseason list and helped the Cleveland Cavaliers even the Eastern Conference finals at 2-2 on Monday night with a 111-102 victory over the Celtics, who are looking forward to getting home before their adoring fans.

Pushed by a raucous crowd that wasn't so confident a few days ago, the Cavs held off Boston's comeback in the fourth quarter and squared a tight series that is now a best-of-three.

Cleveland is trying to become the 20th team—out of 300—to overcome a 2-0 deficit and James, who has already orchestrated two such rallies and is seeking his eighth straight finals, is a step closer to a third.

To do it again the Cavs will have to win in Boston, where the Celtics are 9-0 this postseason.

"We know it's going to be a hostile environment," James said. "We know their fans are going to be very energetic. But we have to just have our same mindset we had when we came home for these two games. If our minds are there, we put ourselves in a position to be victorious."

Game 5 is Wednesday night at TD Center, and Celtics coach Brad Stevens is trying to stay positive with a team that has given up a 2-0 lead and fell to 1-6 on the road in these playoffs.

"It's the best two out of three to go to the NBA Finals. Doesn't get better than that," he said. "Ultimately, anybody that didn't think this was going to be tough, I mean, everything is tough. In this deal, it's a blast to have to grit your teeth, get up off the mat and go after it again."

Kyle Korver added 14 points and Cleveland's sharpshooting 37-year-old added three block and several hustle plays, outrunning three Celtics in one sequence and diving for a loose ball.

"I've loved Kyle ever since we made the trade to get him here" James said. "I don't remember Kyle falling too much like that. I've got to keep his body as fresh as possible. But listen, he's doing whatever it takes to try to help us win, with the blocks, with the strips. Obviously his shot making is very key for our team as well, but it's just the intangibles he's doing for us defensively."

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James drives on Boston Celtics' Terry Rozier in the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Monday, May 21, 2018, in Cleveland.

Tristan Thompson had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs, who won despite 19 turnovers and two assists in the second half. Kevin Love had just nine points on 3-of-12 shooting and was in foul trouble, but he made a big 3-pointer and follow shot in the fourth quarter.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Boston had all five scorers in double figures, but the Celtics fell behind by 19 in the first half and didn't have enough to catch Cleveland.

And, of course, they didn't have James, who moved past Abdul-Jabbar (2,356) for the most field goals in playoff history. James also recorded his 25th career postseason game with at least 40 points—his sixth in this postseason.

The Celtics hung around in the second half and pulled within 100-93 on Marcus Smart's basket with 4:29 left. But Thompson got free for a dunk, and after a miss by Boston, James recovered after making his seventh turnover by making a steal and layup.

Moments later, James drilled a 3-pointer from the left wing to finally put away the young Celtics, who will now feel the immense pressure of trying to hold off the three-time champion.

"He's the best in the game at evaluating the court and figuring out what he wants and where he wants it," Stevens said. "The thing about it is that you just have to battle. You just have to make it as hard as possible, because he's going to find a matchup that he ultimately wants."

Stevens considered changing his starting lineup, but decided to stick with the same first five—Brown, Jayson Tatum, Marcus Morris, Al Horford, and Terry Rozier—as the first three games.

Boston's starters held their own, but none of them was able to match James when it mattered most.

"You hope he misses, that's about it," Rozier said. "He's a big body and you've just got to keep him in front, and hope he misses."

Stevens was evasive about his starting lineup during his pregame news conference, not wanting to give the Cavs any advance notice. "We will start five people. I promise," he said, drawing laughs from media members. Injured stars Gordon Hayward and Kyrie Irving are not traveling with the team so they can continue their respective rehabs. Both have been sitting on the bench with their teammates in Boston.

Rockets-Warriors a roller-coaster of blowouts after 3 games

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—One thing is clear through three games of the power-packed Western Conference finals between a Golden State team that has won two of the past three championships and a Houston team that had a league-best 65 wins.

If either team is off its game, a blowout could ensue.

The Rockets found themselves on the wrong end of that equation in a 126-85 defeat in Game 3 that was the most lopsided loss in their postseason history and the biggest win ever for the Warriors, who took a 2-1 series lead.

Now the big question heading into Game 4 on Tuesday night is which team has the edge if both are clicking.

"I kind of expected that yesterday, that it would be that type of game," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We didn't bring our best game. But I'm hoping for the best. I hope we play great and them bad. Never know."

In a possible bit of gamesmanship, D'Antoni said the pressure in Game 4 is squarely on Golden State's shoulders despite the fact Houston trails in the series. He hopes that helps his players stay loose and play with an extra "giddy-up" in their step.

"We should always have a swagger," star guard James Harden said. "But even more importantly, tomorrow. They've got to try to take a 3-1 lead going on the road. Tie this thing up going back to our crib."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he welcomes the pressure, knowing his team has shown a tendency to lose focus when there's not as much on the line. That may have contributed to Golden State coming out flat in a 127-105 loss in Game 2 after winning the series opener by 13 points.

Star Kevin Durant has another theory for why there have been so many lopsided games this postseason. There has been only one Western Conference playoff game this month decided by fewer than eight points and there hasn't been a single playoff game in either conference decided by single digits since May 9 heading into Monday night's action.

"The 3-pointer's such a huge part of the game now that it could easily go from six to 16 or 17 in a matter of seconds in the game," Durant said. "So I wouldn't say ... the games aren't good. It's just the fact that the style of play causes teams to pull away a little faster."

The Warriors might have to take the court in Game 4 without a key contributor. Forward Andre Iguodala is doubtful with a sore left knee. If Iguodala can't go, the Warriors will be down a key defender against Harden and a playmaker on offense, forcing Kerr to make another adjustment after the move to put Iguodala in the starting lineup provided a spark in the second round against New Orleans.

One factor in Golden State's favor is that Stephen Curry might have found his outside shot in the second half Sunday. After making just 3 of 20 3-pointers in the first 10 quarters of the series, Curry hit 4 of 5 from long range after intermission Sunday, including a 30-footer.

"I work on it all the time, and I made it before," Curry said. "I had amnesia, really. In that moment, in my head am I 0-for-0, or am I 10-for-10 in my head? I'm feeling good in that moment. Just shoot it. You can't second-guess your first instinct in that moment. So it's obviously good to see it go down, and we got a little boost from that possession."

That type of short-term memory is just what the Rockets need after the Game 3 blowout, even if D'Antoni did plan to hold a film session to go over the mistakes for his own sanity more than as a teaching tool.

His players know they weren't aggressive enough on both ends and lacked the focus needed to beat a Warriors team that is nearly unstoppable when at its best this time of year. But the Rockets have the confidence built in a stellar regular season and first two rounds to believe they have the tools to pull it off.

"Just go out there and do it," Harden said. "It's pretty simple. Not try to overcomplicate things. Just go out there and do what we do. Obviously, do the opposite of what we did last game, but it's not hard at all."

Saipan Vegas Extreme, Warriors I down foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas Extreme and NSA Warriors I won the pair of boys U18 division matches in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the curtain-raiser, the NSA Warriors I topped the 670 Sonics XVII, 46-34, while Saipan Vegas Extreme outclassed the Chinatown Titans in the second game, 54-49.

Carlos Elchico and Duncan Laxa delivered timely baskets for Saipan Vegas Extreme with the former making two triples in the fourth quarter and the latter posting 5 markers, including 3 of the team's last 5 points. Elchico and Laxa's field goals allowed Saipan Vegas Extreme to keep its distance against the Titans.

The Titans were forced to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter, as Saipan Vegas Extreme grabbed the lead at the end of the third, 41-31.

Daryl Metran nailed 6 of his 8 points in the penultimate frame to help Saipan Vegas Extreme turn a 21-24 half-time deficit to a double-digit spread, going into the third canto. Tommy Lee Augustin and Eric Leon Guerrero combined for 8 more points in that third-quarter recovery, while Elchico and Laxa finished things off for the winning squad.

In the first game, the NSA Warriors I led right from the get-go for the 12-point winning margin.

Henry Aguon started things off for the Warriors I, as he scored 8 points in the first quarter, which ended with his team on top by twin digits, 14-4.

The NSA Warriors I took early control of the match, as they held the 670 Sonics XVII to four free throws in the opening 10 minutes of play. The NSA Warriors I kept going in the next three quarters for the easy win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An NSA Warriors I defender, right, tries to prevent a Sonics XVI player from pulling up for an open shot during an earlier game in the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Brazil wants to lower Neymar's expectations for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Brazil wants to reduce the expectations on Neymar.

The world's most expensive footballer is at the end of his recovery from a foot operation, and joined 16 Brazil teammates on Monday for physical and medical tests at their Granja Comary camp in Teresopolis, outside Rio de Janeiro.

Neymar was also going to receive a private meeting with Brazil coach Tite, who wants to try and reduce the pressure on the striker.

"Neymar will hear from Tite that he spent three months off the pitch and will not be the exceptional Neymar after that," Brazilian Football Confederation coordinator Edu Gaspar said at the camp.

"We will create some ground for him to get his self-confidence back, and that it goes up without too much pressure on his performances."

Neymar hasn't played since late February when he cracked the fifth metatarsal that connects to the little toe in his right foot. On March 3 he underwent surgery in Brazil and returned to training just one week ago in France.

"Neymar will keep doing what he is doing at Paris Saint-Germain. There is a physical part, then a technical one. But there will also be the emotional part, so he has the real magnitude of what we are thinking," Gaspar said. "We are not thinking only about Neymar, we will have communication strategies for every athlete."

Gaspar said Neymar will be expected to play about 45 minutes of the friendly against Croatia in Liverpool on June 3, the first of two for Brazil before the World Cup. The second is against Austria in Vienna on June 10.

"Today, we talked about playing those two games as if they were the World Cup," Gaspar said.

"We need total reality then, so we start the tournament well. We studied those two teams tactically and saw they were ideal for those friendlies. For now, they are more important than our (World Cup) opener."

Brazil opens in Russia against Switzerland on June 17 in Rostov. Their group also features Costa Rica and Serbia.

Left back Marcelo, midfielder Casemiro, and striker Roberto Firmino will only join the squad in London next Monday, after Real Madrid and Liverpool meet in the Champions League final in Kiev.

AP

In this Aug. 31, 2017 file photo, Brazil's Neymar, right, controls the ball against Ecuador's Pedro Quinones, left, during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

SCHORR

From Page 28

before cruising to a 6-1 triumph in the second to complete the first round sweep. Schorr capitalized on the exhausted Kim to notch the easy win in the second set. The searing heat took its toll on the visiting player, who had to call a medical timeout, as blood started to drip from his nostrils.

With the victory over Kim, Schorr arranged a second round duel against the Philippines and No. 3 seed Jose Antonio Tria—a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Japan's Ewan Oguro.

Other second round qualifiers at the upper half of the draw were South Korea's Junhyun Lee and Joseong Choi, Australia's Rahul Desai, and Hong Kong's Marvin Lee. Junhyun advanced after eliminating Australia's Kolt Piggins-Massaad, 6-0, 6-1; Desai prevailed against the CNMI's Jimin Woo, 7-6 (4), 6-2; Marvin Lee downed South Korea's Donggyu Kim, 6-3, 6-4; and Choi ousted Australia's Tomi Perica, 6-3, 6-1.

At the lower half of the draw, wild card Alexey Shtengelov shutdown the CNMI's Ji Hwan Ryu, 6-0, 6-0, while South Korea's Sukhee Ann scored a similar win over the CNMI's Richard Steele to join No. 2 seed Guntin Sootinun-Opar of Thailand in the second round.

Four second round slots are left in the boys singles with the CNMI's Ken Song and Seung Hyun Kim playing today and hoping to get those tickets. Song will challenge South Korea's Ha-neul Choe, while Seung Hyun will meet the U.S.' Maxwell Omalley.

Meanwhile, in the girls singles, the CNMI has only three players in contention after Maria Gregoire, Malika Miyawaki, and Tania Tan dropped their opening matches yesterday.

Tan fell to South Korea's Min Kyo Jung, 3-6, 5-7; Miyawaki lost to Australia's Sasha Nelson, 1-6, 0-6; and Gregoire bowed to Japan's Nanami Katsumi, 0-6, 0-6.

Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Coume Kaga drew byes in the opener and will be playing their first game today. The No. 1 seed Lee will meet Japan's Yuina Igarashi, who moved into the second round after knocking out South Korea's YiSoo Han, 6-1, 6-2, while Kaga is pitted against Japan and No. 5 seed Mio Kozaki. Heras also has a seeded opponent in No. 8 Manami Ukita.

Completing the Round 2 qualifier were No. 4 Chui Kei Leung, South Korea's Eunseo Yun and Gi Woo Choi, Japan and No. 6's Sakura Kurokawa, No. 3 Ai Yamaguchi, No. 7 Mua Shigeta, and No. 2 Wing Ka Lin of Hong Kong.

DUENAS'

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Sonics to the semifinals.

Duenas scored in twin digits in three out of the four quarters of the playoff match in an outstanding display of his offensive firepower. He logged 12 in the first frame and made 11 in the penultimate period. Earlier in the second canto, Duenas contributed 8 points and four of his teammates knocked at least two field goals apiece allowing the 670 Sonics to recover from a 7-point deficit in the first and take a 48-38 halftime edge.

The former Saipan Southern High School standout was still unstoppable in the second half and saved his best for last after drilling eight field goals in the final 10 minutes of the match.

With their victory over the Saints, the 670 Sonics set a semis showdown against Casino tonight at 8pm. In the first Final Four game at 6:30pm, it will be the pennant champions Ol'Aces versus the Genesis All-Stars.

The Genesis All-Stars took the last semis seat after routing the Ol'Aces Extra last Monday, 90-74.

Ken Viray, Kelvin Fitial, Derrick Rangamar, and Maverick Itibus teamed up in handing the Genesis All-Stars a Final Four ticket, as all four scored in double figures. Viray recorded 16 points, Fitial added 15, and Rangamar and Itibus contributed 14 and 12, respectively.

Meanwhile, winners of tonight's semis matches will collide in a best-of-three title series, which will begin this Friday.

670 Sonics 103 — M. Duenas 48, Ngeskebei 15, Aranda 12, Rabasto 7, E. Duenas 6, Ordona 5, D. De Guzman 4, Fidelino 4, Abobo 2.

Saints 93 — Deleon Guerrero 22, Ada 16, Kwon 15, Galarse 14, Brennan 12, Villagomez 6, Diaz 4, Reyes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-23, 48-39, 74-77, 103-93.

AQUINO

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21-9 triumph.

It took also three games for Fernandez and Ferdie Arago to outlast Bandoja and Hannah Choi in the mixed doubles AB finals. The eventual champions dropped the first game, 20-22, and then bounced back in the second with a 21-14 to keep their title hopes alive. Fernandez and Arago went on to complete the come-from-behind win following a 21-5 domination of Bandoja and Choi.

Choi and Bandoja gained a finals berth after sweeping Ito and Nate Guerrero in the loser's bracket semis, 21-12, 21-15.

Guerrero did not go home empty handed last weekend, as he teamed up with Hilario in ruling the men's AB doubles. They needed only two games to beat Arago and Patrick Fernandez, 21-17, 21-16. The winning duo also prevailed in two games against Choi and Yun Zhang, 21-15, 21-18, while Fernandez and Arago defeated the latter, too, 21-18, 21-19, to take the last finals berth.

MCS vs SIS in Boys High School Volleyball Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins goes up for a spike during their title game against Mt. Carmel School in the boys division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan International School's Juan Jose Sanchez steps forward for a return.

A Mt. Carmel School player goes for an overhand serve.

A Mt. Carmel School player sets up Eric Kiser, not in the photo, for a spike.

Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins servers in the second set.

A Saipan International School player makes the first hit for the Geckos.

Mt. Carmel School's Jayden Tenorio, right, gets ready to toss the ball, while teammate Seok Jun Yun stays close in the play to provide help.

Mt. Carmel School coach Francis San Nicolas gives instructions to his players.

Soto hits 3-run HR in first start, Nats top Padres

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Schorr, Lee advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Sean Lee made the grade in the opening round of the 2018 Northern Marianas Junior Championships after dispatching their respective opponents yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hard courts.

Lee was paired against fellow Commonwealth player Seung Jin Paik and eased his way to the second round with a 6-1, 6-0 victory. Next up for Lee is the No. 7 seed and Chinese-Taipei's Ming-Chieh Chiu, who rallied past South Korea's Sun Ann, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, in one of the matches at the upper half of the draw.

Schorr is also at the top half of the draw and eked out a 7-6 (5) win over South Korea's Minsung Kim in the first set

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Robbie Schorr gets ready to serve against South Korea's Minsung Kim during their first round match in the 2018 Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the PIC Saipan hard courts.

Aquino, Pinkerton lead champions list

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The tandem of Vince Aquino and Emma Pinkerton took the first title at stake in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition after prevailing in the mixed doubles CC division last Friday at the the TSL Sports Complex.

Aquino and Pinkerton were undefeated in the division, capping their perfect run in the competition by sweeping Tim Choi and Zoey Zeng in the finals, 21-15, 21-15. The newly crowned champions had a twice-to-beat advantage in the title match and capitalized on the edge they got, dispatching their foes early.

Choi and Zeng forced a finals showdown against Aquino and Pinkerton after downing Lani Santos and Tommy Kim in the loser's bracket semis. Pinkerton and Aquino, on the other hand, took the first finals seat following a victory over Zeng and Choi in the winner's bracket semis of the double-elimination tournament.

Meanwhile, Windy Fernandez will have her hands full this weekend when the Northern Marianas Badminton Association holds the awards ceremony in the IT&E-sponsored event, as she clinched three titles over the weekend.

In the singles, Fernandez bagged the B division crown after defeating Loyda Ito in the finals, 21-12, 21-9. Fernandez moved to the title match and earned a twice-to-beat edge after a victory via forfeit against the injured Anna Alvarez last Saturday. Earlier, Fernandez also downed Merlie Tolentino and Ito to march into the semis, while the latter prevailed against Cristy Villaflor, Tolentino, and Alvarez to get a second crack at Fernandez.

Fernandez also played in the mixed doubles BB finals and she and Cris Hilario needed only one match to beat Gary Bandoja and Annette Ta. Hilario and Fernandez, who moved into the title game following a win over Jorge Olanda and Roweno Sison, were tested to their limits in the finale before pulling off a 22-20, 19-21,

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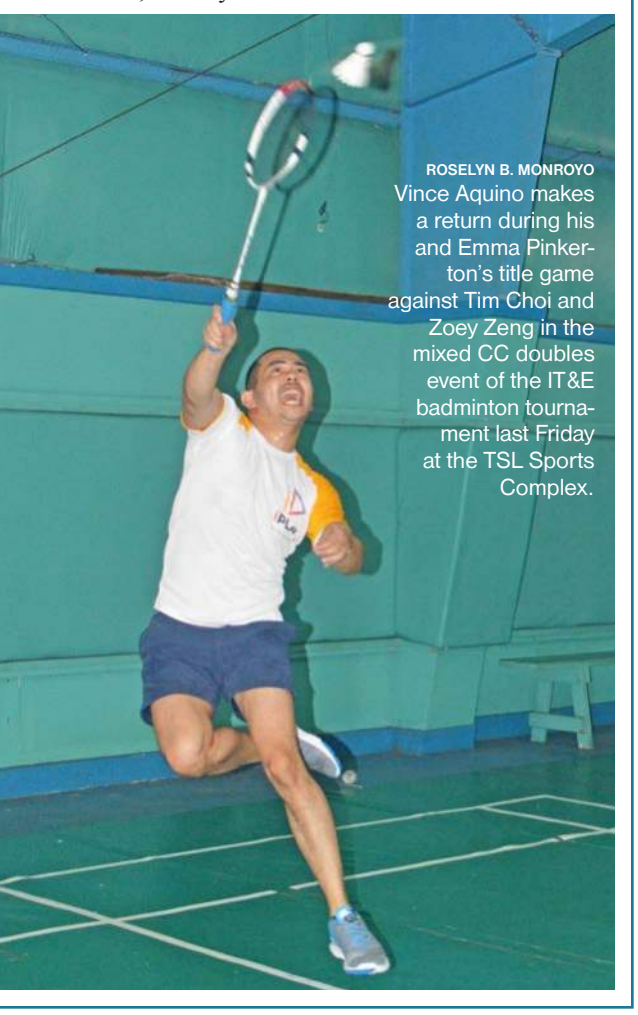

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Vince Aquino makes a return during his and Emma Pinkerton's title game against Tim Choi and Zoey Zeng in the mixed CC doubles event of the IT&E badminton tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Duenas' 47 points lift 670 Sonics past Saints

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matt Duenas' guns were blazing, as he powered the 670 Sonics to a 103-93 victory against the Saints in their playoff game in the men's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Duenas exploded for 47 points, as he anchored the 670 Sonics' offense all throughout the game to beat the No. 7 rank Saints, which gave their No. 2 seed foe a good fight despite having the underdog tag.

The Saints led after the opening quarter, 23-17, and even worked their way back from a 39-48 halftime deficit when they regained the driver's seat, 77-74, going into the fourth canto. Shane Deleon Guerrero, Dixon Kwon, Don Brennan, and Leo Galarse combined for 33 of the Saints' 37 points in the third period—the most by any team in a quarter—to threaten the 670 Sonics.

However, the 670 Sonics rode on the shoulders of Duenas in the fourth period to grab the upper hand en route to the double-digit winning margin. The burly forward scored 16 points in the final canto to eliminate the Saints and bring the 670

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Saints' Shane Deleon Guerrero, left, reaches in to tap the ball away from the 670 Sonics' Matt Duenas during the first quarter of their playoff game in the MIBF island-wide caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.